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Free to Deployed Areas

More than 100 changes ID'd to aid nuke force

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. nuclear forces were allowed to go downhill amid the distractions of two ground wars and now need infusions of cash and prestige to keep them safe and effective, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said Friday.

Those were among the broad conclusions of two reports — one conducted within the Department of Defense and one by outside experts — that Hagel ordered in February after troubling incidents emerged in

the nuclear force, including a test-cheating scandal and drug arrests.

In all, the reports recommended more than 100 changes officials say will overhaul management of the U.S. nuclear force from top to bottom.

Immediately after announcing the findings Friday, Hagel boarded a plane to Minot Air Force Base, N.D., with Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James to visit nuclear missile and bomber personnel there.

Before he left, with top officials from the Defense Department and the U.S. nuclear enterprise alongside him, Hagel

“Over the next five years ... we're probably looking at a 10 percent increase in the nuclear enterprise over each of those years.”

Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense

said high-ranking leaders had failed to pay enough attention to what he called the DOD's most important mission.

“A consistent lack of investment and

support for our nuclear forces over far too many years has left us with too little margin to cope with mounting stresses,” he said. “The reviews found evidence of systematic problems that if not addressed could undermine the safety, security and effectiveness of the elements of the force in the future.”

Problems range from maintenance and skill deficiencies to a culture of micromanagement and overzealous inspections that did more harm than good, the officials said.

SEE NUCLEAR ON PAGE 4

“As soon as we leave, the Taliban come back”

Afghan forces struggle to break stalemate | Page 3



An Afghan National Army soldier fires a 122 mm howitzer at Taliban positions during a clearing operation in Laghman province, Afghanistan, on Nov. 4. Security forces are struggling to make decisive gains against an insurgency that shows no signs of fading.

JOHN SMITH/Stars and Stripes

VIDEO GAMES

New 'Call of Duty' makes the leap to futuristic warfare

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CALL OF DUTY

MILITARY

Air controller earns rare 2nd Silver Star for Afghan actions

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Islamic State, al-Qaida reach accord in Syria, sources say » Page 6

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am just not a good son."

— Suspected Pennsylvania police barracks sniper Eric Frein, who is facing murder and two terrorism charges, in a letter addressed to "Mom and Dad"

See story on Page 7

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., left, and Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., right, join a gathering of U.S. lawmakers and former servicemembers during a briefing on Capitol Hill on Thursday, vowing to fight the Air Force on its decision to retire the "Warthog."

Lawmakers fight for embattled A-10

By MARTIN KUZ
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans vowed again Thursday to preserve funding for the A-10 fighter jet, describing an Air Force proposal to mothball all or part of its Warthog fleet as an ill-advised gift to U.S. foes around the world.

"I tell you who would like to retire the A-10: the enemies of this nation," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., during a Capitol Hill press conference that included Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H.

Ayotte has led the effort in the Senate to rescue the A-10, the "flying tank" beloved by U.S. ground troops for its reliability in providing close air support.

Pentagon and Air Force officials initially sought to retire the entire fleet of 283 jets by 2019,

claiming the move would save \$4.2 billion and prevent further operational delays of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter jet.

In recent weeks, reacting to persistent criticism from Ayotte and other lawmakers, Air Force officials quietly floated a compromise plan to ground 72 jets by shutting down three A-10 squadrons.

On Thursday, Ayotte, whose husband flew combat missions in the A-10 while deployed to Iraq, had a two-word response to the idea of trimming the fleet: "It's wrong."

The campaign to keep the A-10 flying has received bipartisan support in the House since the summer, when lawmakers, ignoring the wishes of the Air Force, voted to preserve the fleet.

But while the House passed a defense authorization bill months ago that would maintain funding levels for the jet, the measure remains mired in the Senate.

White House officials have suggested that President Barack Obama may veto a defense spending bill that requires the Air Force to sustain the A-10 program.

In emphasizing the need for the Warthog, McCain invoked the rise of Islamic State militants and Russian troops invading Ukraine. McCain, who is expected to become head of the Armed Services Committee when Republicans take control of the Senate in January, blamed the Air Force for "misguided priorities" in attempting to ground the A-10.

The low-flying, slow-moving jet, developed in the early 1970s, has strong backing from the Tactical Air Control Party Association, which represents the military's roughly 1,300 close-air support experts.

Charlie Keebaugh, the group's president, referred to the Warthog as a "game-changer" for U.S. combat troops.

"Our guys on the ground need and deserve the A-10," he said.

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'Our troops on the ground need and deserve the A-10.'

Charlie Keebaugh

Tactical Air Control Party Association



Correction

A Nov. 9 story on military bases named as quarantine sites should have said the Ebola crisis is unfolding in West Africa.

Former Army employee guilty of stealing gear

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A former civilian U.S. Army employee has pleaded guilty to theft after being accused of stealing sophisticated military equipment from a Northern California depot and

trading some of it for marijuana.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Sacramento said Devon Gregory Biggs, 38, pleaded guilty Wednesday to theft of government property from the Sierra Army Depot in Herlong, Calif.

Prosecutors say he stole machine-gun components, night-

vision goggles, technology that uses lasers for illumination and low-light video recording equipment. Officials previously said the equipment was valued at nearly \$85,000.

At a Jan. 28 hearing, Biggs faces a maximum sentence of 10 years.

From The Associated Press

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STARS AND STRIPES

WAR/MILITARY

Insurgents winning by not losing

ANSF unable to claim decisive victories against elusive Taliban in Laghman province

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

LAGHMAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan—The howitzer belched flame and a rolling rumble followed the supersonic round as it crossed low over the valley where police forces were battling a handful of insurgents. Then it slammed into a bare mountainside.

No Taliban fighters were visible to the naked eye, but Afghan commanders insist the rocky slopes are often used as Taliban hideouts.

On this day, the Afghan National Army was serving as backup to the police below, staging in blocking positions and providing heavier firepower like a Soviet-designed 122 mm artillery piece and 23 mm cannon. In the late afternoon, however, army commanders decided to pack up their weapons and head back to their base, even as the clatter of small-arms fire echoed through the valley. The security situation remained unchanged.

Nestled next to more famous provinces like Kunar and Nangarhar, restive Laghman has largely been spared the major fighting that shook some areas in Afghanistan this summer. But the slow-burning insurgency that has settled in the mountain valleys here just a few hours from Kabul may provide a glimpse into Afghanistan's future, one where neither the government security forces nor the insurgent groups are able, or in some cases willing, to win decisive victories or persuade the other side to negotiate.

When asked the next day whether it would be possible to visit the area the police and army had just cleared, police commander Rahim Khoda Mokhlis dismissed it as impossible.

"The Taliban have already placed [improvised bombs] all over the place again," said Mokhlis, who leads the elite crisis response unit in Laghman province. "When we come, they run away. As soon as we leave, the Taliban come back."

Warfare deadlock

With its dubious artillery tactics and the troops' early departure, the Afghan Analysts Network, wrote in an August report on the situation in eastern Afghanistan. "The current warfare is resulting in a deadlock, with neither side able to make strategic breakthroughs."

"This capacity of the insurgency to shift and concentrate its forces in different areas have, operationally, exemplified the challenges facing Afghan forces that must not only hold the line but also neutralize the still potent insurgency. "This capacity of the insurgency to shift and concentrate its forces in different areas have, operationally, exemplified the challenges facing Afghan forces that must not only hold the line but also neutralize the still potent insurgency."

According to a U.S. Defense Department assessment in October, over the summer, the Taliban



Afghan National Army soldiers fire a 23 mm cannon at Taliban positions during a clearing operation in Laghman province on Nov. 4.

and other insurgent groups were "unable to hold any significant terrain and were consistently overmatched when engaged by ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) enabled by coalition air and intelligence support."

Most foreign combat troops left Laghman a year ago, Afghan leaders say, and since that time local security forces have largely maintained the gains made when the province's Taliban strongholds were removed.

But it is an axiom of guerrilla warfare that insurgents can often win simply by not losing. And there are few signs that the Taliban, Haqqani network and other militant groups are going away any time soon.

"The most visible effect of this type of violence is a re-militarization, seen throughout the country, with an increasing number of armed actors competing for exclusive control over local populations and resources," Foschini wrote.

Fiscal constraints

The operation in Laghman highlighted what is perhaps of most concern: Even if they fail to win most military engagements, relatively small bands of insurgents can suck vast amounts of resources from a government that is already on the verge of bankruptcy.

In 2012, the international donors who provide most of Afghanistan's budget, hoping for an improved security situation, had planned to cut back funding after the NATO drawdown.

But the continuing conflict has forced the Afghan government to maintain a massive security force,



Afghan National Army Col. Hassani Kharokhel, left, and police Crisis Response Unit commander Rahim Khoda Mokhlis, center, discuss their plans during the operation.

and with it the need for billions in international aid. U.S. military commanders now say they believe the current size of the ANSF — numbered at about 330,000 — will need to be maintained through 2018.

These fiscal constraints are putting the squeeze on the Afghan forces who man the front lines in small villages, and some local leaders are turning to armed groups with a controversial history and often uncertain loyalties.

Mokhlis said a truly effective counterinsurgency strategy must rely on the Afghan Local Police, low paid militias often drawn from existing community forces loyal to local strongmen. Some ALP units have drawn criticism over allegations of extrajudicial killings and prisoner abuse, but

Mokhlis argued that they are the key to protecting communities from Taliban influence.

"The army comes and leaves and [the national police] come and leave, but the local police are the ones who stay," he said. "It is hard if not impossible to bring security through operations like the ones you saw. The ANA can't be everywhere at once." The army troops in the area generally operate from centralized bases, and often stick to larger operations, rather than manning checkpoints or doing daily patrols of the type necessary to prevent insurgent influence.

The day after the operation in Laghman, Mokhlis met with a handful of ALP commanders and local elders as an informal coalition seeking to overcome what they see as a lack of support from the central government.

While the ALP was initially envisioned as a sort of national guard that would live at home until called out, the high demands of the unending violence has forced many ALP to man checkpoints and other bases around the clock, said Haji Iqbal, a tribal elder and ALP commander in Dowlat Shah district. And so far the costs of that extra effort have



Stars and Stripes

gone unfunded by the central government.

"Communities are paying for this themselves," he said. "And the lack of resources means they are often outgunned by the enemy."

That was an assessment echoed by Haji Noorani, an ALP commander in Alishang district.

"If the current situation continues the whole province will eventually return to the Taliban," he said. "The politicians say all is well, but it is not true."

What's needed

The situation looked brighter to Gen. Noorullah Qadri, commander of the ANA 201st Corps 1st Brigade, as he sipped tea in a gilded pagoda at his headquarters in rural Laghman.

"The situation is good, but we are trying every day to make it better," he said. "The enemy cannot stand against the security forces, especially the army."

Still, he admitted there is a cycle to the conflict. "Instead of having bases, the insurgents now hide in civilian centers," he said. "They run away when we come, then return to pressure the civilians."

Security leaders in the province said that a lack of air support is making it difficult to hunt insurgents who flee to remote mountain ranges.

"We have all the latest technology," Qadri said, "but if we have to drive, the insurgents can just run away. We can't catch them."

Analysts say security forces will need to up their game if they expect to deter insurgent forces enough to make a political peace deal more likely.

"Government forces need to convincingly win battles in the coming years they hope to create conditions that bring the Taliban to the negotiating table," researchers with the International Crisis Group concluded in a report released in May. "At the moment, with foreign troops withdrawing, insurgents might reasonably conclude that the balance is swinging in their favor; they killed twice as many police in 2013 as the previous year, for example."

According to some estimates, Afghan security forces may be taking as many casualties as they are inflicting. In 2013, estimates pinned ANSF killed and wounded at 8,200, while insurgent casualties were around 9,500. A similar number of ANSF are estimated to have been injured or killed this year.

"We are doing what we can out here," Mokhlis said. "But we need to know we have backup."

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"If the current situation continues, the whole province will eventually return to the Taliban. The politicians say all is well, but it is not true."

Haji Noorani
Afghan Local Police commander



MILITARY

Airman becomes third to earn a second Silver Star

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — As bullets cracked around his head, Air Force Master Sgt. Thomas Case stayed cool and directed pinpoint airstrikes on Taliban positions less than a stone's throw away.

And with two foreign fighters coming at the commander of the Army unit to which Case was assigned as a joint terminal attack controller, he shielded the officer with his body and took them down with his rifle.

For his heroism fulfilling both the air and ground aspects of the JTAC's job during a battle on July 16 and 17, 2009, Case on Tuesday became just the third airman to be awarded a second Silver Star medal. Case, who's now part of the 18th Air Support Operations Group at Fort Bragg, N.C., received the honor in a ceremony at Pope Field.

As a staff sergeant in 2004, he was awarded his first Silver Star for an operation during the 2003 invasion of Iraq to seize and hold the Haditha Dam. During the course of several days, controlling up to 14 aircraft simultaneously, Case was responsible for more than 300 enemy casualties and the destruction of dozens of enemy

tanks, scores of artillery pieces and even a few enemy boats.

The 2009 battle in the Khost province of Afghanistan, for which he earned his second Silver Star, was an entirely different affair.

"It's apples and oranges," he said. "You go from fighting a conventional military force to fighting an insurgency."

It was a nighttime operation deep in the Khost-Gardez Pass in eastern Afghanistan. A platoon of Rangers, accompanied by Case, climbed out of helicopters a few miles from a group of mountain camps where they hoped to capture or kill a specific Taliban combatant, as well as to disrupt insurgent activities in the area.

They began a tough climb toward the objective, but went off course and soon came under heavy fire from a machine gun in a fighting position just 15 yards away.

"The enemy had the high ground," Case said. "We didn't have a lot of time or room to maneuver."

According to the Air Force narrative of the incident, "Pinned down in the center of the platoon's formation, Sergeant Case recognized they needed to employ close air support. With machine

gun rounds impacting the ground and trees within two feet of him, Sergeant Case remained exposed to enemy fire so he could locate the enemy position."

But then Case realized he couldn't call in an airstrike from a AC-130 gunship orbiting overhead because his communications were down because wires on his radio had been damaged.

"Bullets were flying around. I'd love to be the guy able to say a round had sliced through his wires," he said. "The truth is, it actually got hung up. It was the deciduous forest there."

He was able to partially piece his equipment back together amid the onslaught, and finally directed the gunship's crew to destroy the enemy position with fire from its 25 mm cannon.

Case said he had few qualms about directing an airstrike so close to the platoon's position.

"The ground force commander asked me what the hell I was doing," he said. "I just said, 'Sir, that's the best crew up there.' It was just incredible to see them put their bullets where they were supposed to go."

After directing two dangerously close airstrikes, Case saw through his night-vision goggles that two insurgents were bound-



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Master Sgt. Tommy Case, a U.S. Air Force tactical air control party member, coordinates aerial command-and-control support as part of a joint task force deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

ing down the hill toward him and the Army officer commanding the mission. Instinctively, his fighting sense switched from air to ground.

"As they closed within fifteen meters of their position, Sergeant Case literally placed himself between the enemy personnel and the ground force commander in order to protect him from their gunfire," according to the Air Force narrative of the battle. "Employing his M-4 rifle and directing the ground force commander to take cover, he then killed both insurgents, both of whom turned out to be highly trained foreign fighters."

Case continued shooting and continued directing airstrikes, and within about half an hour, he estimates, the Taliban in the area were dead or on the run, and

the Rangers began securing control of the mountainous terrain around them.

Years later, Case and the Ranger commander, Capt. Carmen Buccini, maintain a strong bond. Buccini attended the medal ceremony Thursday.

Firing his weapon in a ground engagement was nothing new for Case, but in retrospect, he said the dangerously close airstrikes he'd been forced to call in were unusual, and the tremendous noise of the big rounds slamming into the slope some fifty feet away is something that has stuck with him.

"With the proficiency of that crew, I'd do the same thing again," he said. "I certainly hope I don't have to, but I would."

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Nuclear: Changes include effort to boost forces' morale, standing

FROM FRONT PAGE

Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work, who oversaw the internal report, said one bizarre incident uncovered in the studies serves as a metaphor for much of what's wrong.

In that case, nuclear missile maintainers at three bases had only one crucial tool kit among them. Amid mismanagement from above, the best solution they could devise was to FedEx the tools from base to base as needed, he said.

"They had reported it over and over, and they just worked around it," he said.

Each base now has its own set of tools and will soon have a backup set as well, he added.

The leaders praised the quality of the airmen and sailors who man the nuclear enterprise, but

said many members, particularly in the Air Force, have been allowed to get the impression they've been routed into a dead-end career field.

"The root cause has been a lack of sustained focus, attention and resources, resulting in a pervasive sense that a career in the nuclear enterprise offers too few opportunities for growth and advancement," Hagel said.

To improve morale, the Pentagon is working to eliminate parts of the inspection regime that burden troops without paying off in better operations. The Air Force also has changed missile crew manning procedures, has implemented an incentive pay plan for nuclear officers and enlisted troops and has begun awarding the Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal for exceptional performance.

To signify the importance of the nuclear forces, the commander of Air Force Global Strike Command will become a four-star position, while the service's Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration commander's billet is being boosted to three stars.

"We must restore the prestige that attracted the brightest minds of the Cold War era," Hagel said. "They will no longer be outranked by their non-nuclear counterparts."

The bill for improving nuclear operations will not be small, officials admitted.

"Over the next five years ... we're probably looking at a 10 percent increase in the nuclear enterprise over each of those years," Hagel said. "Right now, we spend about \$15 to \$16 billion on our nuclear enterprise."

At roughly \$1.5 billion per year,

that works out to at least \$7.5 billion over five years to improve maintenance at missile silos with doors investigators found could not fully close, to upgrade weapons storage, to replace outdated Huey helicopters used for Air Force nuclear base security, and to hire thousands more personnel at Navy shipyards.

But, Work said, a return of automatic budget cuts known sequestering in 2016 — the cuts have been blunted for two years thanks to a budget deal — could dash hopes for a nuclear force renovation.

The new initiatives must have follow-through, which officials said was lacking in previous reviews of the nuclear enterprise, including one instigated by former Defense Secretary Robert Gates in 2008 after troubling security incidents involving nuclear

weapons.

Previous reviews didn't have clear mechanisms to make sure they were being implemented effectively, Hagel said. The current recommendations will be tracked by both a group of top nuclear warfare officials and by the Pentagon's Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation office, Hagel said.

Reports on progress will be delivered monthly, he said.

"Accountability is key to everything, it's critical. You can have the structure, you can have the process, you can have the resources," he said. "But if you don't have the accountability, it will unwind."

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper contributed to this report.
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WAR ON TERRORISM

Iraq force authorization reopens war debate

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's decision to reverse course and to seek a congressional authorization for the war against the Islamic State so far has served only to reignite criticism of his entire military strategy against the extremists.

On Thursday, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee passed any authorization that bars ground troops — Obama has insisted Americans will not wage ground combat — would be dead on arrival in Congress. "I will not support sending our military into harm's way with their arms tied behind their backs," said Rep. Buck McKeon, R-Calif.

The day after the midterm elections, Obama appeared to change tack, saying he would welcome Congress' input.

Obama said he began engaging Congress over a new authorization to use military force against ISIL," he said, using one of sev-

eral acronyms that refer to the militant group. "The world needs to know we are united behind this effort and the men and women of our military deserve our clear and unified support."

Meanwhile, about six competing authorization bills are now circulating on Capitol Hill and the White House has not yet told lawmakers what it expects from the new war authority, despite requests from congressional leaders. The lack of direction is making the process more difficult, said Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., who sponsored one of the bills.

"This works so much better when the president sends up the draft authorization," Kaine said during a discussion at the Wilson Center in Washington. "Because if he doesn't ... then you have six different authorizations put in. I put one in with basic authorizations and limitations, but there are five other authorizations floating around."

Kaine has argued that Congress is abdicating its duty under the

Constitution to declare war by not voting on the Obama administration's air and proxy war. His filed bill would lay out rules for humanitarian operations, counterterrorism operations against Islamic State leaders, and the training of regional forces, as well as include a sunset clause that would require lawmakers to revisit the use of force after one year.

In lieu of a White House draft, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., is likely working on synthesizing various proposals into a "Frankenstein" bill, said Kaine, who sits on that committee.

Congress is under mounting pressure to weigh in on the new conflict and to decide on parameters for Operation Inherent Resolve as the administration strategy evolves. This week alone, U.S. and coalition forces conducted 23 more airstrikes in Iraq and Syria at a cost of about \$76 million per day, a total of about \$76 million since Aug. 8, to push back the

Islamist radicals who have seized large swaths of those countries, according to the Department of Defense.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey told the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday that the military is now considering limited deployment of ground troops to fight alongside Iraqi forces — despite assurances from Obama it would not happen.

The administration is now basing its legal justification for the war on authorizations passed by Congress in 2001 after 9/11 and in 2002 about six months before the invasion of Iraq.

Last week, Obama met with congressional leaders and said the old authority for war is out of date.

"We now have a different type of enemy. The strategy is different ... So it makes sense for us to make sure that the authorization from Congress reflects what we perceive to be not just our strategy over the next two or three

months, but our strategy going forward," Obama said.

The White House did not provide comment for this story.

Jack Goldsmith, a Harvard Law School professor, said Wednesday that authorizations of war have almost always required the president to make the first move.

"If you look back at every single major authorization of force since World War II ... they have only come about because the president insisted on it," Goldsmith said.

More than 10 authorizations have occurred that way and it is likely an Obama draft would mean a quick response from Congress, he said.

"If he sent up a draft authorization tomorrow and said, 'I want this in a month,' that would get the job done," Goldsmith said. "The question is going to be, if he does not make that move, if Congress can do it on its own."

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Obama seeks human rights waiver on war funds for Iraq effort

By KEN DILANIAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration repeatedly has asked Congress to exempt its military effort against the Islamic State from a longstanding ban on U.S. assistance to torturers and war criminals, highlighting doubts about finding "clean" American allies in a region wracked by ethnic animosity and religious extremism.

The latest proposal is included in a Nov. 10 request to Congress for \$1.6 billion to train Iraqi and Kurdish forces to fight the Islamic State as part of a \$5.6 billion request to expand the U.S. mission in Iraq. The proposal sets up a fight with key Senate Democrats, who blocked two earlier requests for such an exemption, according to documents and interviews.

The 1997 Leahy Law, named after Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy, bars the U.S. from funding military units suspected of "gross human rights violations," which include murder, torture and extrajudicial imprisonment. Top military officers have long complained that the law slows their work with local forces while human rights activists call it an important safeguard against U.S. complicity in abuses by unsavory allies.

The Obama administration's written proposal includes a blanket exemption from the Leahy provisions and related constraints as it trains and equips Iraqi and Kurdish forces to fight the Islamic State.

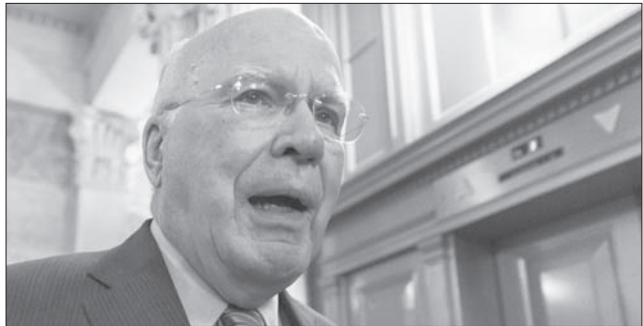
A spokesman for the National Security Council, Alistair Baskie, said the waiver was designed to cut through procurement red tape but "is not intended to alter our practices with respect to human rights-related laws, including the Leahy law." However, the language allows the defense secretary to waive "any" provision that would "prohibit, restrict, limit or otherwise constrain" the war spending. Senate aides say there is no doubt it would waive the human rights requirements.

Iraqi government forces — the main intended recipients of the new aid — were notorious for human rights abuses under the previous prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki. In July, a United Nations human rights report documented allegations of atrocities by the government, including shelling civilians and executing Sunni detainees.

The Associated Press reported this week that Shiite militias backed by Baghdad are engaging in brutal acts as they battle the Islamic State, a Sunni Muslim group, and there are allegations of mass killings of Sunnis.

Leahy and other Democrats will oppose a blanket waiver, said aides who declined to be quoted by name.

"It would be short-sighted, irresponsible and harmful to our interests not to do everything feasible to prevent the misuse of U.S. assistance when it can mean the lives and deaths of innocent people," Leahy told the AP. Two similar exemption requests were quietly rebuffed by



Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington in March. The 1997 Leahy Law, named after Leahy, bars the U.S. from funding military units suspected of "gross human rights violations."

Congress in a defense bill passed in September, Senate aides said. That bill provided \$500 million to train the Syrian rebels and a \$1 billion counterterrorism fund for the Middle East.

In both cases, the Obama administration sought to exempt the funding from all human rights restrictions, records show. Administration officials say they have and will continue to vet any recipients of military training and aid, whether the government of Iraq, Kurdish forces or Syrian rebels. But they say the various legal restrictions imposed by Congress over the years — bans on assistance to people involved in terrorism and drug dealing, as well as human rights abuses — bring with them a bureaucratic process that will slow down American efforts against the Islamic State group.

The Leahy law applies only to military units of nations, but other restrictions apply more broadly.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Sources: Islamic State, al-Qaida to end rivalry

BY DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Militant leaders from the Islamic State group and al-Qaida gathered at a farm house in northern Syria last week and agreed on a plan to stop fighting each other and work together against their opponents, a high-level Syrian opposition official and a rebel commander have told The Associated Press.

Such an accord could present new difficulties for Washington's strategy against the Islamic State group. While warplanes from a U.S.-led coalition strike militants from the air, the Obama administration has counted on arming "moderate" rebel factions to push them back on the ground. Those rebels, already considered relatively weak and disorganized, would face far stronger opposition if the two heavy-handed militant groups now are working together.

Islamic State is the group that has seized nearly a third of Syria and Iraq with a campaign of brutality and beheadings this year — and al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria, known as the Nusra Front, have fought each other bitterly for more than a year to dominate the rebellion against Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The Associated Press reported late last month on signs that the two groups appear to have curtailed their feud with informal, local truces. Their new agreement, according to the sources in rebel groups opposed to both the Islamic State and Nusra Front, would involve a promise to stop fighting and to team up in attacks in some areas of northern Syria.

Cooperation, however, would fall short of unifying the rival groups, and experts believe any pact between the two sides could easily unravel. U.S. intelligence officials have been watching the groups closely and say a full merger is not expected soon — if

ever. A U.S. official with access to intelligence about Syria said the American intelligence community has not seen any indications of a shift in the two groups' strategies, but added that he could not rule out tactical deals on the ground. The official insisted on anonymity because he said he was not authorized to speak publicly about the subject.

According to a Syrian opposition official speaking in Turkey, the meeting took place Nov. 2 in the town of Atareb, west of Aleppo, starting about midnight and lasting until 4 a.m. The official said the meeting was closely followed by members of his movement, and he is certain that an agreement was reached. The official said about seven top militant leaders attended.

A second source, a commander of brigades affiliated with the Western-backed Free Syrian Army who is known as Abu Musafir, said he also had learned that high-ranking members of Nusra and the Islamic State met on Nov. 2. He did not disclose the exact location, but said it was organized by a third party and took place in an area where the FSA is active.

According to Abu Musafir, two decisions were reached: First, to halt infighting between Nusra and the Islamic State and second, for the groups together to open up fronts against Kurdish fighters in a couple of new areas of northern Syria.

According to the opposition official, the meeting included an Islamic State representative, two emissaries from Nusra Front, and attendees from the Khorasan Group, a small but battle-hardened band of al-Qaida veterans from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Islamic State group says it will mint its own coins

The Associated Press

CAIRO — The leader of the Islamic State group has ordered the terror organization to start minting gold, silver and copper coins for its own currency — the Islamic dinar.

A website affiliated with the group posted the order late Thursday, saying Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi instructed his followers to mint the coins to "change the tyr-

rannical monetary system" modeled on Western economies that "enslaved Muslims."

The order was approved by the Islamic State group's Shura Council, an advisory board, according to the website. The authenticity of the posting could not be independently verified but the website has been used in the past for Islamic State group postings.

According to photographs of coin prototypes, they carry the



Al-Qaida-inspired militants stand with a captured Iraqi army Humvee at a checkpoint outside an oil refinery in June in Beji, some 155 miles north of Baghdad.

Iraqi forces drive militants from long-held refinery town

BY HAMZA HENDAWI
AND JOHN HEILPRIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces drove Islamic State militants out of the strategic oil refinery town of Beji on Friday, handing a major defeat to the extremist group, which a U.N. panel said has denied food and medicine to hundreds of thousands of people and has hidden its fighters among civilians since the start of a U.S.-led air campaign.

The recapture of Beji is the latest in a series of setbacks for the jihadi group, which has lost hundreds of fighters to airstrikes in a stalled advance on the Syrian town of Kobani and whose leader was reportedly wounded in an airstrike earlier this month.

Two Iraqi security officials said government forces backed by allied militiamen captured the town of Beji and lifted a monthslong Islamic State siege on the refinery itself — Iraq's largest — hoisting the country's red, white and black

flags atop the sprawling complex.

Reached by telephone in Beji, they said the army used loudspeakers to warn the small number of residents still holed up in the town to stay indoors while bomb squads cleared booby-trapped houses and detonated roadside bombs.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

State-run television also reported the "liberation" of Beji, quoting the top army commander there, Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi.

Islamic State extremists captured Beji during the summer offensive in which they swept across much of northern Iraq and captured its second-largest city Mosul. The Iraqi forces collapsed in the face of the onslaught but have since partially regrouped and have gone on the offensive, with Beji the biggest locality they have recaptured to date.

The Iraqi military has since been aided by U.S.-led airstrikes targeting Islamic State positions

in Iraq and in neighboring Syria.

The two officials said fierce battles were fought early on Friday around the refinery and that government warplanes strafed Islamic State positions around the facility. The refinery's capacity of some 320,000 barrels per day accounts for a quarter of Iraq's refining capacity.

Video footage from Beji aired on state television this week showed large-scale destruction in the city center, with many buildings badly damaged or destroyed. One clip showed al-Saadi, surrounded by heavily armed soldiers, walking triumphantly to the headquarters of the local government at the town center.

Beji now likely will be a base for staging a push to take back Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit to the south. Government forces tried to retake Tikrit earlier this year, but their campaign stalled and the city remains in Islamic State hands.

words in Arabic: "The Islamic State/A Caliphate Based on the Doctrine of the Prophet."

It's unclear where the Islamic State group intends to get the gold, silver and copper for the coins. It said the dinar's purchasing power would be its weight in gold, silver or copper.

One of the gold coins carries the symbol of seven stalks of wheat, mentioned in the Quran, while another has the map of the

world, a reference to Islam someday ruling the entire world.

One of the silver coins shows a sword and a shield in a reference to holy war, or jihad, while another has a minaret symbolizing Damascus mentioned in one of the Prophet Muhammad's sayings.

Another coin carries the symbol of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, where the Prophet prayed. It's revered as Islam's third-holiest place, complete with the

site's iconic, gold-topped Dome of the Rock, which enshrines the rock from which Muslims believe the Prophet ascended to heaven.

The copper coins carry the symbol of the crescent moon and three palm trees, also significant in Islam.

The posting said instructions from the Islamic State's treasury department would be forthcoming, explaining to the people how to use the currency.

NATION

Hoping to 'wake people up'

Police: Pa. sniper suspect wanted to foment revolution

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
The Associated Press

Eric Frein thought the nation was headed in the wrong direction, and concluded that change couldn't be made at the ballot box. So two months ago, he picked up a high-powered rifle and ambushed two troopers outside a Pennsylvania State Police barracks to "wake people up," according to new court documents that provide the first indication of a possible motive.

In an interview with authorities the night of his capture and in a letter to his parents, Frein revealed himself to be deeply dissatisfied with the government and society, saying he hoped to foment a revolution to reclaim "the liberties we once had," said the documents, filed Thursday in support of terrorism charges against the sniper suspect.

Frein already faced first-degree murder and other counts in the Sept. 12 ambush that killed Cpl. Bryan Dickson, seriously wounded another trooper and sparked a 48-day manhunt in the Pocono Mountains.

Frein has not entered a plea. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

On the night of his capture,

Frein waived his right to remain silent and told police in an interview at the barracks that he had shot the troopers "because he wanted to make a change (in government) and that voting was inefficient to do so, because there was no one worth voting for," according to a criminal complaint. "The defendant further acknowledged taking action (shooting the troopers) to wake people up because it was all he could do."

The complaint also included a letter, allegedly written by Frein and addressed to "Mom and Dad," that extolled the virtues of revolution.

"I do not pretend to know what that revolution will look like or even if it would be successful," he wrote before adding: "Tension is high at the moment and the time seems right for a spark to ignite a fire in the hearts of men. What I have done has not been done before and it felt like it was worth a try," the documents said.

Frein also apologized to his parents, writing, "I am just not a good son," according to documents.

Police found the letter on a storage drive inside the abandoned airplane hangar that Frein was apparently using as shelter. It was created Dec. 29, 2013, and last ac-

"Tension is high at the moment and the time seems right for a spark to ignite a fire in the hearts of men."

Eric Frein
Pennsylvania sniper suspect

cessed on Oct. 6, while Frein was on the run, the documents said. Police have said Frein had a laptop with him.

Frein appeared by video Thursday at a brief hearing at which state police filed the additional charges.

Authorities, meanwhile, say they're not worried that Frein's alleged confession could conceivably be challenged by defense attorneys.

Police refused to tell him that his family had hired an attorney for the night he was captured, according to defense attorney James Swetz, who said he was prevented from seeing Frein at the barracks.

"I was told, 'He's an adult and has not asked for a lawyer,'" Swetz recounted earlier this week.

MICHAEL J. MULLIN,
THE SCRANTON (Pa.) TIMES-TRIBUNE/AP

Sniper suspect Eric Frein is taken to prison after a preliminary hearing in Pike County Courthouse in Milford, Pa., on Oct. 31.

District Attorney Ray Tonkin has cited Pennsylvania Supreme Court precedent that says police aren't required to tell a suspect that an attorney is seeking to speak with him or her.

A more recent state court decision, however, said the Supreme Court had not "eliminated the possibility" that a defendant's due-process rights could be violated under similar circumstances.

Judge stands by BP ruling

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A federal judge in New Orleans stuck to his ruling that said BP's conduct in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil rig disaster amounted to "gross negligence."

U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier said Thursday there was no basis for BP's claim that the testimony was unfair or prejudicial and rejected BP's call to either amend his Sept. 4 judgment or hold a new trial on the issue. The ruling could mean close to \$18 billion in federal penalties for the oil giant.

BP spokesman Geoff Morrell said the company disagrees with Barbier's decision and will appeal the September ruling.

BP attorneys filed a motion in October arguing that a key finding that led to the "gross negligence" ruling was based on testimony about cement used to seal the completed Macondo before the April 2010 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig. BP asserted that testimony from Gene Beck, an expert for cement contractor Halliburton, had been excluded from a trial on the issue.

"Initially, it requires some effort to identify exactly what testimony is the target of BP's motion," Barbier wrote in an 11-page ruling that included excerpts from the testimony. He said some testimony was excluded. However, he said, some critical testimony was elicited by BP's attorneys on cross examination.

"Even assuming that the complained-of testimony was excluded during direct examination, BP's own counsel later opened the door to this testimony," Barbier wrote.

The Deepwater Horizon rig exploded on April 20, 2010, killing 11 workers and spewing millions of gallons into the Gulf of Mexico for months. Barbier has scheduled a January trial to determine how much in Clean Water Act fines BP will face.

Massey CEO indicted in coal mine explosion

The former chief executive of coal giant Massey Energy Co. has been indicted on federal charges stemming from a 2010 coal mine explosion that killed 29 people.

Donald L. Blankenship was indicted Wednesday by a West Virginia grand jury and charged with four counts, including conspiracy, fraud and making false statements. He is the highest-ranking Massey Energy official to be indicted in the explosion to date.

The company had been cited for repeated mine safety violations in the years leading up to the April 5, 2010, explosion at its Upper Big Branch mine, the worst U.S. mining disaster since 1984. Massey Energy agreed to pay a \$209 million settlement as a result.

Federal prosecutors say that, among other things, Blankenship conspired to violate federal mine safety standards and to impede federal mine safety officials at the company's Upper Big Branch mine in southern West Virginia.

From the Los Angeles Times

Ruling gives immigrants in Ariz. chance for bail

By JACQUES BILLEAUD
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — A U.S. Supreme Court ruling has cleared the way for a wave of bail hearings for immigrants across Arizona.

Hundreds of immigrants who have been denied bail under a strict Arizona law will now have the opportunity to be released.

The high court on Thursday kept intact a lower-court ruling that struck down the law passed in 2006 amid a series of immigration crackdowns in Arizona over the past decade.

The law denied bail to immigrants who are in the country illegally and have been charged with a range of felonies that include shoplifting, aggravated identity theft, sexual assault and murder.

As a result, immigrants spend

months in jail and often simply plead guilty and get turned over to federal immigration authorities for deportation.

An 11-member panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the law last month, ruling that it violates due-process rights by imposing punishment before trial. The panel also said the law was a "scattershot attempt" at confronting people who flee from authorities, and that there was no evidence the law dealt with a particularly critical problem.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and county attorney Bill Montgomery defended the law before the courts. Montgomery's office estimates that hundreds of immigrants in metro Phoenix are now eligible for release under the decision, and prosecutors believe the action could overwhelm the

court system and lead to defendants skipping bail and endangering the community.

"In the weeks ahead, we will endeavor to meet the challenge of responding to motions to review conditions of release that will now be filed as a consequence of the Ninth Circuit's callous rejection of legitimate state interests and the Supreme Court's disappointing indifference," Montgomery said in a statement.

The law's defenders say the ruling calls into question bans on bail for various reasons in 40 states. Four states — Arizona, Missouri, Alabama and Virginia — have laws confronting the issue of bail for immigrants.

The American Civil Liberties Union praised the decision.

"Today's Supreme Court ruling should put a stop to Arizona's un-

constitutional attempt to jettison the presumption of innocence and the right to a bond hearing — protections that apply to all individuals, regardless of immigration status," said Cecilia Wang, the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project director.

The Supreme Court let stand the 9th Circuit decision, at least for now. But Justice Clarence Thomas said he went along only because it was clear that the required four of nine justices would not vote to review the case.

Thomas, joined by Justice Antonin Scalia, called that "unfortunate." He wrote that the high court has long had a practice of reviewing rulings that overturn state or federal laws, but "for reasons that escape me, we have not done so with any consistency, especially in recent months."

Hawaii lava breaks out in 3 spots

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Lava from the Kilauea volcano is breaking out at three spots near the small Hawaii town of Pahoa.

Hawaii County Civil Defense said in a statement Thursday that molten rock is burning asphalt as it fills the driveway at a trash transfer station. Lava is also oozing out near a cemetery and at another spot about 400 yards upstate of a rural road.

The county says the breakouts

don't pose an immediate threat to area residents.

Part of the flow closest to the town's main road is still at the spot where it stalled two weeks ago.

Kilauea has been erupting continuously for more than 31 years. Earlier flows traveled south, smothering the Royal Garden and Kalapana subdivisions in the 1980s and 1990s.

The current flow began in June and has been moving northeast.



COURTESY OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY/AP

Lava flow from the Kilauea volcano pushes its way through a fence near a refuse transfer station and moves down the slope onto station grounds in Pahoa, Hawaii. The flames are caused by burning asphalt.

NATION

Report reveals Secret Service's many missteps

Among findings: Officers expected bushes to stop intruder from entering White House

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secret Service officers chasing a Texas Army veteran across the White House lawn in September figured they had him cornered when he encountered the thick bushes on the property.

To their surprise the bushes were no match for the fence-jumper, who dashed into the executive mansion through a pair of unlocked doors, knocking aside an officer physically too small to tackle him. She then fumbled with her own equipment as the man carrying a knife ran deep inside the president's home, according to a Homeland Security review of the Sept. 19 incident.

The incident occurred shortly after 7 p.m., only minutes after President Barack Obama and his daughters, along with a guest of one of the girls, left the White House aboard Marine One on

their way to Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland where Obama and his family were to spend the weekend. First lady Michelle Obama had traveled separately to Camp David and was not at home.

The folly of errors and missteps by Secret Service officers were revealed in a nine-page summary of the government's investigation of the break-in at the White House by a disturbed Army veteran.

The government determined that lack of training, poor staffing decisions and communication problems contributed to the embarrassing failure that ultimately led to the resignation of the head of the Secret Service, Julia Pierson. The report did not specify any disciplinary actions.

The new report said Omar Gonzalez, 42, cleared the fence where a trible or centumry spike, was missing. An officer in the joint operations center who tried to raise the alarm was



EVAN VUCCI/AP

A Secret Service agent gives directions during an evacuation from the White House on Sept. 19 in Washington. According to a Homeland Security review released on Thursday, a lack of training, poor staffing decisions and communication problems contributed to the ability of an armed White House intruder to climb over a security fence and run into the executive mansion.

unaware his warnings weren't being broadcast to uniformed officers stationed at the executive mansion.

Some officers at a gate on Pennsylvania Avenue failed to see the fence-jumper because their view was obstructed by a construction project. A Secret Service canine officer parked on the White House driveway was using the speaker function on his personal cellphone without his radio ear piece, and a second, tactical radio was stashed away in his locker as

the intruder made his way into the secure area.

Two officers wrongly assumed Gonzalez wouldn't be able to get through thick bushes on the property, the report said. Another officer posted on the portico outside the wooden White House doors mistakenly assumed the doors were locked.

The intruder was able to run into the building before a female officer seated just inside could lock a second set of doors.

That officer tried twice to take

Gonzalez down but was unable to because she was smaller than him. She reached for her metal baton but mistakenly grabbed a flashlight. As she dropped the light and drew her gun, the intruder made his way into the East Room before heading back down a hallway on the State Floor deep within the White House.

Gonzalez was eventually tackled by another officer, who was helped by two plainclothes agents just finishing a shift, the report said.

House likely to pass Keystone pipeline bill

By DINA CAPPIELLO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled House is on track to easily pass a bill Friday to approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline, and this time, the Senate may follow.

The bill marks the ninth attempt by the House to secure approval of the pipeline, which has been delayed by environmental reviews, legal challenges to its route and politics. Prior votes in the Senate on the issue failed to get enough votes, but supporters said Thursday they were close to reaching that threshold.

Both the GOP and Senate Democrats hope the votes will give an edge to their party's candidate in the Louisiana Senate race, where Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy and Sen. Mary Landrieu are headed for a runoff and both touting their energy credentials in an oil and gas-producing state.

While Landrieu pushed for the vote planned in the Senate next week, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky credited the Republican sponsor, Sen. John Hoeven of North Da-

kota, for the progress Thursday.

"We never would have gotten to this point without the tireless leadership of Sen. Hoeven in the Senate, and Congressman Cassidy in the House," said McConnell. "Like the experts, Sen. Hoeven also knows that Keystone would also have almost zero net effect on our climate."

Even if the measure passes the Senate, it might hit a dead end at the White House, which has repeatedly issued veto threats on the bills to expedite or force the President Barack Obama's hand on the issue.

The White House stopped short of directly threatening a veto of the Keystone legislation. But spokesmen Josh Earnest, traveling in Asia with Obama, said the president takes a "dim view" of legislative efforts to force action on the project.

Environmentalists have framed the issue as a test of Obama's commitment to address climate change. Republicans, and the State Department's review, say the pipeline won't have a significant impact on global warming and thus should be green-lighted.

Pipeline advances

Congress returned from a seven-week recess to the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline legislation. If Congress approves, President Barack Obama would have to sign the measure.



SOURCE: Reuters
GRAPHIC: Staff, Tribune News Service

Lawmakers move to strip former Nazis of benefits

By RICHARD LARDNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced legislation Thursday to strip suspected Nazi war criminals of their Social Security benefits, insisting American taxpayers should not be underwriting the retirement of anyone who participated in the Third Reich's atrocities.

The Nazi Social Security Benefits Termination Act comes in response to an Associated Press investigation published in October that revealed millions of dollars in benefits have been paid to dozens of former Nazis who were forced out of the United States. At least four are alive, living in Europe on U.S. Social Security.

The legislation would end benefits for Nazi suspects who have lost their American citizenship, a step called denaturalization. U.S. law currently requires a higher threshold — a final order of deportation — before benefits can be terminated.

AP's investigation found that the Justice Department used the loophole to persuade Nazi suspects to leave the U.S. in exchange for Social Security benefits. If they

‘This is a matter of principle. Taxpayers should not be funding the retirement of war criminals.’

Rep. Jason Chaffetz
R-Utah

agreed to go voluntarily, or simply fled the country before being deported, they could keep their Social Security benefits. The Justice Department denied using Social Security payments as a tool for expelling former Nazis.

"Our bill will eliminate the loophole that has allowed Nazi war criminals to collect Social Security benefits," Rep. Carolyn Maloney, the bill's main sponsor, said in a statement.

Republican Reps. Jason Chaffetz of Utah and Leonard Lance of New Jersey joined with Maloney to introduce the legislation. There are 11 other co-sponsors.

"This is a matter of principle," Chaffetz said. "Taxpayers should not be funding the retirement of war criminals."

EBOLA OUTBREAK



ABDAS DULLEN/AP

A health worker stands inside a medical tent on the outskirts of Monrovia, Liberia, that forms part of a new American clinic to be used to treat people suffering from the Ebola virus.

Experts: Ebola response needs flexibility

The Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — Many beds are empty at newly opened Ebola treatment units in Liberia's urban centers because the outbreak is now flaring in more rural parts of the country. In Sierra Leone's capital, there aren't enough treatment units as the epidemic spreads there.

Those helping battle the world's worst Ebola outbreak must be more agile to catch up as the dreaded disease jumps from one place to another, U.N. officials and experts say. That's a challenge because it is a slow process for governments to authorize aid, gather it together and then deliver it. To build treatment units, even rudimentary ones, takes even more time. By the time they're built, the outbreak may have moved elsewhere.

In Liberia, the U.S. this week opened an Ebola treatment unit in Tubmanburg, about 40 miles north of the capital, Monrovia. A 250-bed Doctors Without Borders clinic in Monrovia is treating only about 50 patients. There have been no patients at another facility in Foya, in northern Liberia, since Oct. 30. The U.S. plans to build 17 units in all, and it has already opened a field hospital to treat infected health workers.

"Some of our initial thinking

has proven different ... on the ground," said Susana Malcorra, chief of staff to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, at a General Assembly meeting Thursday.

Anthony Banbury, the head of the U.N. mission fighting Ebola in West Africa, called for "a more flexible, more nimble" response that puts treatment units in remote regions and gets staff rapidly to new outbreaks. He said burial teams must also be sent to remote areas, and small treatment centers and laboratories need to be built, requiring money and experts to manage them.

Banbury warned the General Assembly that Ebola is an elusive disease that has just reappeared in Mali, where it was thought to be under control. He said the international community has enough challenges trying to mobilize resources in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Mali, and any outbreaks in other countries would be "truly devastating."

"Ebola is a fearsome enemy, and we will not win by chasing it," he said. "We must get ahead of it. ... Liberia is leading the way with the development of a rapid isolation and treatment capability."

Liberia Assistant Health Minister Tolbert Nyenswah told the General Assembly by video that trained teams can now get to Ebola hot spots in 24 hours.

nization's work toward finding an Ebola drug, said scientists have proposed lots of experimental interventions, but none has been thoroughly evaluated yet.

"We don't have a lot of drugs in our pipeline that look promising," said Friede, program leader for WHO's technology transfer initiative. His comments fol-

'Ebola is a fearsome enemy and we will not win by chasing it. We must get ahead of it.'

Anthony Banbury
head of the U.N. mission
fighting Ebola in West Africa

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said Thursday she is lifting a state of emergency imposed to control the outbreak, but she added that the move does not mean it is over. In fact, a day earlier, she visited a new Ebola hot spot in the coastal county of Grand Cape Mount on the border with Sierra Leone.

The outbreak, which has killed more than 5,000 people and infected more than 14,000 in West Africa, is currently hitting Sierra Leone particularly hard.

Banbury said the real number of deaths is likely to be much greater because not all have been reported.

Just as Ebola hit Liberia's capital earlier, it is now becoming more entrenched in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, with dozens of new cases reported each day.

low a WHO-sponsored meeting of medical experts this week on how to test potential Ebola drugs in Africa.

Friede told reporters Friday in Geneva that "people are using all kinds of therapies" for the deadly virus without evidence they're effective or safe.

From The Associated Press

Doctor going to US for treatment

Surgeon infected in Sierra Leone expected to be flown to Nebraska hospital over weekend

The Associated Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — A surgeon working in Sierra Leone has been diagnosed with Ebola and will be flown Saturday to the United States for treatment, officials from Sierra Leone and the United States said.

Dr. Martin Salia was to be taken to Omaha to be treated at the Nebraska Medical Center, Sierra Leone's chief medical officer, Dr. Brima Kargbo, told The Associated Press on Friday. The U.S. Embassy in Freetown said Salia himself was paying for the expensive evacuation. He reportedly lives in Maryland.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday that Salia's wife, who also lives in Maryland, has asked the State Department to investigate whether he is well enough to be flown to Nebraska.

Salia is a general surgeon who had been working at Kissy United Methodist Hospital in the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown. Patients, including mothers who hours earlier had given birth, fled from the 60-bed hospital after news of the Ebola case emerged.

United Methodist News reported. The hospital was closed on Tuesday after Salia tested positive and he was taken to the Hastings Ebola Treatment Center near Freetown, the church news

service said. Kissy hospital staff will be quarantined for 21 days.

A Sierra Leone citizen, Salia, 44, lives in Maryland and is a permanent U.S. resident, according to a person in the United States with direct knowledge of the situation. The person was not authorized to release the information and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The doctor will be the third Ebola patient at the Omaha hospital and the 10th person with Ebola to be treated in the U.S. The last, Dr. Craig Spencer, was released from a New York hospital on Tuesday.

The Nebraska Medical Center said Thursday it had no official confirmation that it would be treating another patient, but that an Ebola patient in Sierra Leone would be evaluated for possible transport to the hospital. The patient would arrive Saturday afternoon.

Salia came down with symptoms of Ebola on Nov. 6, but test results were negative for the deadly virus. He was tested again on Monday, and he tested positive. Salia is in stable condition at an Ebola treatment center in Freetown. It wasn't clear whether he had been involved in the care of Ebola patients.



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WHO says few drugs in pipeline are promising

GENEVA — A top official with the U.N. health agency said few experimental therapies are currently under development that could effectively treat Ebola.

Dr. Martin Friede, who is in charge of the World Health Orga-

WORLD

Obama pans Myanmar policy

President oozes support for opposition leader, critiques election rule

The Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar — President Barack Obama mounted a warm show of support Friday for Myanmar's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, voicing opposition to a constitutional rule that's keeping the pro-democracy icon off next year's ballot. While crediting Myanmar for progress in its transition to democracy, he offered a blunt assessment of the distressing shortcomings that have called that transition into question.

In his joint appearance with Suu Kyi, on the back porch of her lake-

side home, Obama stopped short of an explicit endorsement for her potential campaign for president. But his affection and deep admiration for Suu Kyi was clear, from his praise for her efforts to liberalize the government to the ease with which he whispered in her ear as they walked arm in arm into the home.

Although Obama was quick to caution he didn't want to dictate how Myanmar should pick its next president, he said told President Thein Sein the night before that he saw little wisdom in a rule barring Suu Kyi, 69, from running next

year because her children hold British citizenship.

"I don't understand a provision that would bar somebody from running for president because of who their children are," Obama said.

Suu Kyi, a member of Parliament demure in her support for changing that provision, said it was flattering to have a constitution written with her in mind. But she said that wasn't how it should be done in a democracy, urging supporters not to get too caught up in whether she wins next year's pivotal elections.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVIS/AP

President Barack Obama, left, stands with Myanmar's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi at her home in Yangon, Myanmar, on Friday.



ANDY WONG/AP

A family on an electric tricycle rides past a coal-fired power plant in Beijing on Thursday.

China eyes change to meet climate targets

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese leaders pledged for the first time to cap the country's decades-long growth of greenhouse gas emissions. Since China emits more carbon and other heat-trapping gases than any other country, the pledge boosted global efforts to prevent catastrophic climate change. Fulfilling its pledge, however, will require China to transform a booming economy that still largely depends on polluting industries such as steel production and manufacturing. The country does have important advantages, having already developed enormous capacities for solar, wind and other renewable energy sources.

What China has pledged: China pledged to halt the growth in its greenhouse gas emissions around 2030 or earlier if possible. It didn't, however, specify a peak emissions level. It said it would produce a fifth of its total energy from non-fossil-fuel sources, including nuclear energy, by 2030. That would double the current share of non-fossil fuels in the country's energy mix.

China accounts for about 30

percent of global emissions.

What it's already done: China produces more solar panels and wind turbines than any other country and has built dozens of dams inside and outside the country to produce hydropower.

According to a National Energy Administration plan, China will boost hydropower to 290 gigawatts next year, marking 6 percent annual growth since 2010. Wind power will hit 100 gigawatts, marking 26 percent annual growth, and solar power will reach 21 gigawatts at 90 percent annual growth.

Many cities such as the capital, Beijing, are plagued by extreme air pollution and have started phasing out coal burning. The central government is now considering a nationwide cap on coal use.

The challenges China faces: Coal generates about 80 percent of the country's electricity, so cutting carbon emissions will require overhauling China's energy mix. At the very least, the country needs to hit coal reduction targets at least five years before 2030 to meet the goals announced this week, said Alvin Lin, China climate and energy policy direc-

tor with the U.S.-based Natural Resources Defense Council.

The country also must implement and enforce tougher energy efficiency standards. The price for energy as well as water for many Chinese is subsidized, which discourages consumers from conserving.

Possible solutions: China needs to expand and accelerate what it's started. That means overhauling energy infrastructure to use more renewable sources and creating incentives for consumers, especially commercial and industrial users, to switch to renewables and to conserve energy.

The country's banks and governments could help by making more financing available for energy users to install solar panels, said Rosie Pidcock, a Beijing-based business development manager with the U.S. company Urban Green Energy.

China also needs to build more energy-efficient power plants and buildings, as well as better quality wind turbines and other clean energy infrastructure, said Gianluca Ghiara, a Beijing-based renewable energy consultant.

European probe starts drilling for comet data

The Associated Press

BERLIN — A European probe has begun drilling into a comet to collect scientific data, but mission controllers said Friday that battery issues may make it impossible — at least for now — to access that information.

The Philae lander on Wednesday became the first spacecraft to touch down on a comet and has since sent its first images from the surface of the body, known as 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko.

But two harpoons that should have anchored the washing machine-sized Philae to the surface

did not properly deploy when it hit the comet.

That caused the lander to bounce off the comet and drift through the void for two hours before touching down again. After a second, smaller bounce, scientists believe it came to rest in a shallow crater.

European Space Agency mission control still has not been able to locate the probe, but it's believed to be next to a cliff that is blocking sunlight from its solar panels.

That means the probe has been operating on battery power, which is expected to soon run out.

New Zealand fugitive killer captured by Brazilian police

The Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — A convicted pedophile and murderer from New Zealand managed to earn money while in prison, book his escape under his birth name, and flee to Brazil while on temporary release before authorities finally caught up with him Thursday.

Phillip John Smith, who sexually abused a neighbor's son and killed the boy's father, might still have been on the run if somebody — police won't say who — hadn't spotted him in Brazil after he got a two-day jump on his pursuers.

The case has raised plenty of questions about the competence of New Zealand authorities, who have suspended their program of temporarily releasing prisoners while they investigate what went wrong. Brazilian federal police said in a statement they found Smith, 40, in a hostel in the bohemian Santa

Teresa neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro. He was arrested after a week on the run and remained in Brazilian custody pending his return to New Zealand.

When Smith was allowed out of prison last week on a three-day release, he wasn't fitted with a monitoring device, and it took authorities two days since he fled the country to realize he'd disappeared, taking a large amount of cash with him.

Smith, who was sentenced to life in prison in 1996, was able to book his plane tickets using a passport with his birth name, Phillip Traynor, according to police, who acknowledged the name wasn't linked to the man's criminal record.

The nation's corrections department announced this week it had suspended its temporary release program, designed to rehabilitate prisoners into society.

While on the run, Smith brazenly sent an email to Radio New Zealand that said he'd planned his escape by running a criminal check on his birth name and finding it hadn't been red-flagged.

He said he'd also run various enterprises from prison that helped fund his escape, but didn't provide details.



Smith

WORLD

Russia to G-20: We're here — with warships

By KRISTEN GELINEAU

The Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia — Vladimir Putin is underlining his presence at a major summit of world leaders in Australia by stationing warships in waters off the country's northeastern coast, prompting the Australian prime minister to angrily accuse Russia of trying to reclaim the "lost glories" of the Soviet Union.

The diplomatic drama, which has been simmering since a Malaysia Airlines plane was shot down over an area of Ukraine controlled by Russian-backed separatists in July, threatened to overshadow Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott's goal of keeping this weekend's G-20 summit focused on economic growth.

But Abbott, who had previously said he would physically confront the Russian president over the Flight 17 disaster that killed 298 people, including 38 Australian citizens and residents, did little to dampen tensions with his latest critique of Putin's Russia.

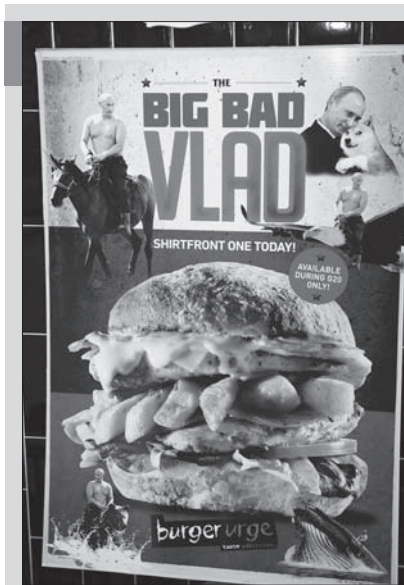
In recent days, four Russian warships have entered international waters off the northeast Australian coast to coincide with Putin's visit to Australia for the summit that brings together the leaders of the world's 20 biggest industrialized and developing economies. Australia, in turn, sent three warships of its own to monitor them.

The Russian embassy said on Friday that Russia's Pacific fleet was testing its range, and could be used as security for Putin.

Abbott was not impressed. "Russia is being much more assertive now than it has been for a very long time," he said at a press conference with British Prime Minister David Cameron, also in Australia for the summit. "Interestingly, Russia's economy is declining even as Russia's assertiveness is increasing."

The prime minister, who met with Putin this week on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Beijing, aired details of his conversation with the Russian leader.

"One of the points that I tried to make to President Putin is that Russia would be so much more attractive if it was aspiring to be



TERTIUS PICKARD/AP

Do you enjoy "oppressive slices of cheese"? They are just one of the toppings on "The Big Bad Vlad" burger, one of many attempts by local businesses to cash in on this weekend's G-20 summit in Brisbane, Australia.

a superpower for peace and freedom and prosperity ... instead of trying to recreate the lost glories of tsarism or the old Soviet Union."

Abbott, an athletic 56-year-old former amateur boxer whose government is a staunch U.S. ally, has gained a higher international profile by loudly demanding more cooperation from Russia on the Dutch-led investigation into the downing of Flight 17.

He raised eyebrows last month when he declared he intended to "shirtfront" Putin, using an Aus-

tralian football term for a head-on shoulder charge to an opponent's chest.

Cameron also took a swipe at Russia, warning that Western sanctions against the country could increase if it continues to foster the rebellion in Ukraine.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel downplayed the appearance of Russia's ships.

"I find it much more serious that there are violations of Russia's territorial integrity," Merkel said during a news conference in Auckland, New Zealand, which she is visiting en route to the G-20.

Putin was expected to arrive in for the summit in the eastern city of Brisbane on Friday.

Abbott has pushed to keep the G-20's agenda firmly focused on a plan to add \$2 trillion to global GDP over five years, with countries expected to present reports on how they will achieve that goal this weekend.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim on Friday praised the G-20, which is often criticized for being all talk and no action, for setting a clear target.

"We'll see what the results are, but we're already encouraged," Kim said. "If the countries will go through with the kinds of structural reforms that they've committed to, we could see a real bump in growth."

'Brissy': No crocs or whips, please

This weekend, the subtropical Australian city of Brisbane will emerge from the shadows of its flashier cousins Sydney and Melbourne when it welcomes leaders from the world's 20 largest economies along with thousands of delegates and journalists for a global summit. It's a major event for a city that, despite being the nation's third-largest, is still dismissed by some as a big, sleepy town. So how has Brisbane, better known as "Brissy," steeled itself for the G-20 onslaught?

POLICE POWER

The government passed a special security act temporarily giving police more power to search members of the public, including permission to strip search anyone they believe is carrying a weapon or any other prohibited item. Speaking of prohibited items...

NO CROCS ... OR WHIPS

People are banned from carrying a litany of items in secure areas — from the expected, such as guns and knives, to the less so, such as whips, cattle prods, eggs, reptiles, toy cars, paper bags filled with flour, bows and arrows, kites and kayaks. Also a no-no: "a noxious or offensive substance, including, for example, urine or animal manure" and "A thing capable of emitting a sound that can distress or upset a dog or horse." If you're caught with any of these — and don't have a good excuse such as, say, heading home with groceries to make an omelet — you can face a fine of 5,500 Australian dollars (\$4,800).

DISHING UP DIPLOMACY

From "The Big Bad Vlad" to the "Obamarama Burger," local restaurants and pubs are cashing in on the event by offering G-20-themed goodies. Brisbane bar Alfred & Constance is holding an "Obamarama Tiki Party" featuring a life-sized cutout of the U.S. president, Obama masks, Obamarama burgers and "The Big O" pineapple cocktails, a nod to the president's Hawaiian roots. At Burger Urge, you can chow down on "The Big Bad Vlad," a Vladimir Putin-inspired sandwich featuring "presidential chicken breasts," "ruthless rashers of bacon" and "oppressive slices of cheese."

SECURITY SCENE

Around 4,000 delegates and 3,000 journalists will flood into Brisbane for the summit, and at least two dozen protests are planned. Security will be predictably intense, but even more so following a series of counterterrorism raids in the city in September that led to the arrests of two men accused of supporting terrorist groups.

MASS EXODUS

Friday has been declared an official holiday in Brisbane, which many are using as an invitation to escape the chaos and flock to the region's nearby beaches for a long weekend. But city leaders are trying to encourage residents to stay by offering 1,000 free parking spaces downtown, with Brisbane's Lord Mayor Graham Quirk noting, "We don't want a ghost town."

— Kristen Gelineau

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DAN HIMBRECHTS/AP

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, left, and British Prime Minister David Cameron are not amused with Russian President Vladimir Putin's antics leading up to this weekend's summit.

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OPINION

Plenty to fill Dems' midterm post-mortem

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Like the Republicans after 2012, Democrats surveying the wreckage from last week's midterm elections have launched a "top-to-bottom assessment" of what happened. Their problem: turning out their voters in nonpresidential years.

But the study undertaken by the party chairwoman, Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, might prove embarrassing for the national party and the White House. After all, the most significant Democratic failure may have been the inability — indeed, the refusal — of top Democrats to make a positive case for their party.

Republicans ran on a clear-cut theme of rebuking an unpopular president. Democrats neither defended President Barack Obama's achievements such as the significantly improved economy nor presented new ideas to tackle persisting problems like income equality, concentrating instead on picking apart the record and views of their rivals and their financial backers.

But negative campaigns go only so far. As former Democratic National Chairman Howard Dean put it on NBC's "Meet the Press" last Sunday, "You've got to stand for something if you want to win."

The results of that failure were obvious: a smaller, less favorable electorate with reduced participation by key components of the Democrats' 2008 and 2012 victories — Hispanics, African-Americans, unmarried women and, most of all, younger voters.

Exit polls showed Hispanic voters down 2 percent, African-Americans down 1 percent, voters under 29 down 6 percent and unmarried women down 2 percent, producing an electorate 62 percent white and 6 percent more over 65, both Republican-leaning groups.

Still, most GOP Senate gains came in so-called "red" states that backed Republican Mitt Romney in 2012. Only Iowa and Colorado were in "blue" states Obama carried, both reflecting superior GOP candidates



LYNNE SKADNY/AP

Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Democratic National Committee chairwoman, said her party will conduct an extensive review of what went wrong in the 2014 and '10 midterm elections.

and inferior Democratic campaigns.

Republican victories in major governor's races show it's possible to make a point in the case, even amid difficulties. GOP incumbents won several "blue" states by defending controversial records and making a successful case for their re-election. The GOP captured two "blue" states — Illinois and Maryland — where, again, Democrats had weak candidates.

were being urged to apply for federal help.

That was help, FEMA says now, they were not supposed to get. FEMA's reasoning is incredible. FEMA says the money paid to the people transferred from public assisted-living centers was supposed to be for temporary shelter but the government eventually took them to other public facilities. So, two years later, it expects hurricane victims to give the money back.

The Associated Press quotes a FEMA letter to Robert Rosenberg, 61, saying that he must pay back \$2,486 FEMA sent him after he was flooded out or file an appeal, which, of course, means getting a lawyer.

The irony is that FEMA set up shop urging the homeless to apply for assistance. In the flood of paperwork, many people did not get the message the money they were seeking could be used only for temporary housing, not food or clothing or medical supplies to replace what they had lost.

According to AP, Rosenberg, who has a spinal disability and lives on a fixed income in a small room in an assisted-living facility in New York, spent the money on food and clothing in the aftermath of the storm. He says he has no way of repaying the \$2,486, which for him might as well be \$2,486,000.

Two years after the disaster, FEMA is still combing through records thinking there might be as many as 4,500 households, most still struggling to recover, who, it suspects, may not have been entitled to

The strong GOP showings left the Democrats at their weakest since winning only 188 House seats and 45 Senate seats in the first post-World War II midterm election, about the number they won this year.

Back then, President Harry S. Truman's 1948 campaign against a "do-nothing Republican Congress" enabled the Democrats to rebound by gaining 75 House seats and nine Senate seats. Current district lines favoring Republicans won't allow that, but Democrats will have a decent chance to regain the Senate.

Still, their best chance will be to win the presidency again, thanks to an electoral map that gives them an easier path to 270 electoral votes than the Republicans. Democrats carried 19 states with 242 electoral votes in each of the past six elections, while Republicans won 13 states with just 102 electoral votes. If you add in the states each party won at least half the time in those elections, Democrats would have 26 states with 319 electoral votes; Republicans would have 27 with 257 electoral votes.

This year's election showed Democratic vulnerability in some "purple" swing states that have gone back and forth recently. Democrats lost two of the four Senate races there and almost lost a third.

Still, while the Democrats know where to go to win the White House, they still need to remember how: by developing a rationale for voters that was absent this year.

Whatever the review panel concludes, the burden of carrying out a strategy might fall largely to the party's chief presidential front-runner, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

She'll need to offer a way for Democrats to fix the economic issue by going beyond lower unemployment with proposals to spur growth and increase household income. That's what was lacking in 2014 and will be necessary for the party's 2016 nominee to avoid the fate of many Democratic candidates this year.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington Bureau Chief of The Dallas Morning News.

FEMA needs to lay off insolvent Sandy victims

By ANN McFEATHERS
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Just about everyone in America has legitimate complaints about the government. Duh! But when disaster strikes — hurricanes, hurricanes, tornadoes, sinkholes, blizzards — most people expect government to be there to help.

After Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Emergency Management Agency took a public beating. Too late. Too bureaucratic. Too ineffective. One of the most famous lines ever uttered by George W. Bush was to Michael Brown, the FEMA director, "Brownie, you're doing a heckuva job," when Brownie was so not doing a good job.

The government response to Katrina was a complete scandal. Since then, a lot of time and effort went into refurbishing FEMA's image. Top people. More money. Presidential attention. In effect: Never again.

Oops. Now comes The Associated Press to report that FEMA, the new bastion of government caring and competence, is asking about 850 disabled, poor and elderly adult home residents who were victims of Hurricane Sandy to repay \$5.8 million in emergency assistance provided by FEMA.

Even as they were evacuated from assisted-living facilities through dirty, swirling water and stuffed into a series of miserable people bins, including an armory, before ending up in other public facilities, they

help and need to repay \$53 million. FEMA says they might have been evacuated from vacation homes and received help for aid, or another family member might also have gotten assistance, or they had gotten aid in a previous storm and failed to buy federal flood insurance. FEMA wants these people to come up with an average of \$6,987.

When you think of all the banks and companies that have received billions and millions of federal bailout money, and when you think of all the corporations that don't pay fair taxes because of clever loopholes written by lawmakers who expect big campaign donations, your blood boils.

Hey, President Barack Obama. It's not fair. Say something! Do something!

A year ago, Obama praised FEMA workers for working despite a government shutdown. And there are many dedicated, hard-working FEMA employees who go out of their way to do good for their fellow citizens in emergencies.

But somewhere in the bowels of FEMA are unhappy wretches determined to make the lives of others as frustrating as possible. After Katrina, FEMA asked 90,000 victims for refunds, some of which Congress forgave.

It certainly gives new reason for applying even more skepticism to the old phrase: "We're from the government, and we're here to help."

Ann McFeathers is a McClatchy-Tribune op-ed columnist.

OPINION

Iraq's internal issues put war plan in doubt

By DAVID IGNATIUS

As the United States advances into its third war in Iraq in a quarter-century, it's important to have a mental checklist to assess whether U.S. strategy there can succeed. Right now, because of Iraq's continuing corruption and sectarianism, it's hard to be optimistic.

President Barack Obama's basic strategic framework seems right, in theory. Obama reiterated Monday in Beijing: "It's not our folks who are going to be doing the fighting. Iraqis ultimately have to fight [the Islamic State] and they have to determine their own security."

As Obama pledged again that America's role will be "to help Iraqis help themselves," the U.S. announced it would add 1,500 more troops as advisers in Iraq, roughly doubling the American force there.

How can the U.S. avoid repeating the mistakes of the past? Looking for answers, I spoke this week with Stuart Bowen, former U.S. special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, whose office audited the chronic waste and mismanagement in the last Iraq fiasco. He helped me prepare a scorecard for assessing the current effort.

To understand how bad things went in Iraq after the U.S. invasion in March 2003, read Bowen's 2013 final report, titled "Learning from Iraq." He estimates that almost 40 percent of the U.S.-sponsored projects he audited had major deficiencies.

Here's an eerie reminder of how out of control Iraq spending went. Bowen writes that in 2003 and 2004, the U.S. delivered more than \$10 billion in cash, drawn from Iraq's frozen oil revenues, sending it in "massive shrink-wrapped bundles of \$100 bills." Bowen pointedly observes: "This money was not managed particularly well." In fact, much of it was probably looted.

Describing Iraq's Central Bank, Bowen wrote that the U.S. reconstruction program inadvertently fostered a "triangle of politi-



JABER AL-HUSAIN/AP

Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi talks to reporters after meeting with the top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, Iraq, last month.

cal patronage," involving political parties, government officials and sectarian groups. This lethal axis fomented a brew of terrorism and corruption that poisoned the country.

There's the challenge, in a nutshell. Iraq over the last decade was sabotaged by sectarian violence and corruption. Any U.S. effort to rebuild an Iraqi military that's strong enough to help defeat the Islamic extremists must tackle these issues. Here again, Obama was right to insist that the corrupt, polarizing Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki must go as a condition for U.S. military assistance. But now what?

How is Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, the U.S.-backed successor to al-Maliki, doing on the key issues of cleaner, less-sectarian government? He's off to a slow start. Let's go down the list:

■ **Corruption.** Iraq cannot succeed militarily or economically without a curb on the massive corruption of the al-Maliki era. According to Bowen's auditors, money laundering through the Central Bank produced losses of more than \$100 billion over the past 10 years, much of it funneled to banks in Dubai and Beirut. The newly appointed Central Bank governor is Ali al-Alaqq, who previously headed al-Maliki's

council of ministers and, in that role, oversaw government contracting. That's discouraging news.

■ **Sectarianism.** Al-Maliki used the government to punish Iraq's Sunni minority, pushing them toward the extremists. Al-Abadi talked about ending this sectarian police state. But for the key post of interior minister, he chose Mohammed al-Saleem Ghabban, an official of the Badr Corps, which many Sunnis view as a Shiite death squad. Sunnis fear that Ghabban will take orders from Hadi al-Ameri, the Badr leader.

■ **Military training.** Iraq's U.S.-trained military collapsed when the Islamic State swept Mosul in June. New trainers from the U.S. and other nations are now arriving to rebuild the military. But a caution: The U.S. spent over \$20 billion training Iraqi security forces from 2005 to 2011. Pentagon planners need to ask: What will be different this time?

■ **Kurdish outreach.** To win Kurdish support, al-Abadi must carry out a promise in the Iraqi constitution to provide Kurdistan with 17 percent of the national budget; he should also pass a new law guaranteeing that oil money will be shared. Since January, the Kurds haven't received a dinar of the promised budget allocation.

■ **Regional outreach.** To rebuild trust with Sunnis, al-Abadi must work with neighboring Arab Gulf states, not just Iran. Arab engagement is a two-way street: Al-Abadi has to travel to Riyadh and other Gulf capitals, and the Saudis and others have to reciprocate. So far, neither has happened.

Iraq can take the lead against the Islamic State only if it becomes a more inclusive (and also decentralized) state. Obama's strategy makes sense, in principle, but it won't work without progress against sectarianism and corruption.

David Ignatius is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

What happened to US isolationism? 2 beheadings

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Remember when pundits were worried that Americans had returned to isolationism? As recently as August, polls showed big majorities opposed to military intervention in Iraq, Syria or anywhere else.

But it only took a couple of beheadings by Islamic State to turn a nation of wary noninterventionists into an angry, warlike tribe.

In a CBS News poll last month, a massive 71 percent of those surveyed said they supported continued air assaults against Islamic State, also known as ISIS. Even more notable, the number of people who supported sending U.S. troops to Iraq "to fight ISIS militants" (which sounds like ground combat, something President Barack Obama has said he won't do) had increased to 47 percent, up from 39 percent in September. And a big stretch of Americans in the vast stretch of American politics in between, Obama's decision was

broadly accepted on its merits.

On the left, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., affirmed that the militants of Islamic State "have got to be defeated." On the right, hawkish Republicans including Sen. John McCain, of Arizona, said Obama's escalation was, if anything, too little and too late. Even Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said the military action was "justified"; his only complaint was that Congress hadn't authorized it.

And that suggests that if the president decides to put some U.S. forces into combat in the fight against Islamic State — now U.S. soldiers act solely as advisers — there is already considerable public support for such a move.

So what happened to all the isolationists?

It turns out that even though the public still yearns for fewer wars and less entanglement overseas, there's at least one big exception: They want a robust response to terrorist attacks against Americans.

"Even when the public wants to withdraw from international engagement, if you hit us, there's a Jacksonian reflex — we're going to protect ourselves," said Andrew Kohut of the Pew Research Center.

And even though Islamic State hasn't mounted any attacks outside its home ground in the Middle East, the group's rhetoric — along with its success in seizing territory and those horrifying video-

taped beheadings — quickly convinced Americans that it poses a direct threat to the U.S.

In the CBS poll, 58 percent said they considered Islamic State a major threat to the security of the United States; 21 percent said they considered the group a minor threat.

"It's not surprising that people are outraged by beheadings; that's appropriate," said John Mueller, of Ohio State, who has long argued that public concern about terrorism has been exaggerated. "But the fact that so may see ISIS as a major threat to the United States frankly amazes me."

Americans have long had a warlike streak. When presidents have made the decision to go to war, even in cases in which the enemy seemed less threatening than Islamic State, the initial public response has traditionally been support — known to scholars as the "rally-round-the-flag" effect. Such patriotism doesn't always translate into support for the president, however, and it certainly hasn't this time. Even as Obama has escalated U.S. action against Islamic State, his overall standing among voters has remained stuck around the 40 percent mark.

In the CBS poll, the number who said they believe Obama has a clear plan for dealing with Islamic State actually declined from 35 percent in September to 29 percent at the end of last month.

That could be in part a reflection of partisan feeling in the heat of a midterm election campaign. But it also reflects a harsh reality of post-Cold War politics: Presidents don't get as much deference as they used to — even when they're waging war.

"If you go back to the Cold War era, even Jimmy Carter got a big bounce in public support during the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979," Kohut said. "But that was a different time."

Post-Cold War presidents, by contrast, have reaped little or no political gain from going to war — even when they were far more hawkish than Obama.

George W. Bush, Obama's predecessor, was blamed for the early fiascos of his invasion of Iraq — a taint the popularity of his second-term "surge" strategy never erased.

His father, George H.W. Bush, won the Persian Gulf War against Iraq handily — and was turned out of office the following year.

There's no reason to think things have changed. Obama will have to accept the cruel reality of post-Cold War politics: If the war goes badly, his standing will suffer. And even if it goes well, it won't do him much good.

Doyle McManus is a Los Angeles Times columnist.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Mother, daughter give birth on same day

FL FORT MYERS — A southwest Florida woman and her daughter both gave birth at the same hospital on the same day.

Heather Pentecoff, 40, and her daughter, Destinee Martin, 20, each found out they were pregnant on the same day. They had the same due dates and, for separate medical reasons, doctors at Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers decided to induce both of them Tuesday.

Pentecoff's new daughter, Madeline, was born first and Destinee's son, Damien, was born almost three hours later, making Pentecoff's grandson roughly the same age as her newborn daughter.

Pentecoff said that the births are "like having twins without carrying twins."

Martin said experiencing pregnancy and birth with her mother "is probably the most special, amazing thing ever."

Man rescued from walls of department store

CO LONGMONT — Authorities say a man who was freed from a space between two walls of a Colorado department store may have been there for several days yelling for help.

Longmont police Sgt. Matt Cage said Paul Felyk, 35, was rescued Tuesday. The Longmont Times-Call reported firefighters used a circular saw to cut into the side of the building to free him.

Employees at the Marshalls store reported hearing someone yelling Monday, but couldn't tell where it was coming from. On Tuesday, employees found the man yelling through a hole in the wall, so they notified authorities.

Longmont Fire Department spokeswoman Mollie Meachan said Felyk entered the building through a vent on the roof for unknown reasons.

Felyk was hospitalized and his condition was unavailable.

Police are still investigating.

Man says wife's remains lost in the mail

OH COLUMBUS — The cremated remains of an Ohio woman that were supposed to be delivered to her husband didn't arrive as scheduled or in time for her funeral, and now the U.S. Postal Service is trying to figure out what happened to the package.

Barbara Kirkendall, 80, died Nov. 5 at a Cleveland hospital, apparently because of a blood infection, and her remains were sent to her Columbus-area home after the autopsy and cremation. The Columbus Dispatch reported.

Norman Kirkendall was supposed to receive his wife's ashes by noon Saturday under a money-back, Priority Mail Express 1-Day guarantee. He told the newspaper he waited for hours, but the package never showed up.

"I feel like I've lost her," he



PATTI BLAKE, (PANAMA CITY, FLA.) NEWS HERALD/AP

Riding for a cause

From left, CJ Burford, Craig Burford, Cindy Weir and Carl Adams ride Wednesday in Panama City Beach, Fla. CJ Burford, 9, is raising money for the National Children's Cancer Society by riding his bicycle across the country.

said of his wife of 61 years, whom he met at an Air Force base in Mississippi when he was an instructor and she was among his students.

Her remains had been shipped to Columbus and signed out for local delivery, the newspaper reported. What happened after that is a mystery.

A Postal Service spokesman, David Van Allen, said a "vigilant search" is being conducted.

Kirkendall's family attended a memorial service Thursday without the remains, but her husband said the planned military burial in Dayton is postponed until the ashes are found.

Veteran has government letter saying he's dead

WI MADISON — An 81-year-old Army veteran from Madison wants the government to know he's alive and well, despite its information to the contrary.

The U.S. Veterans Benefits Administration sent a letter to Kenneth Brunner's wife, expressing sympathy for his passing and directing her not to cash any more benefits checks.

Brunner said he tried to call the agency Tuesday to deliver a few choice words, but the office

was closed for Veterans Day.

Brunner receives a monthly disability check because of serious injuries he received in 1955 while in the Army. He was injured at a Texas Air Force base when a cable snapped on a piece of heavy equipment and struck him.

A spokesman for the Department of Veterans Affairs regional office in Chicago said the error will be fixed.

Officer in burning car calls teen rescuer hero

PA PHILADELPHIA — A Philadelphia police officer says a teenager who helped pull him from a burning squad car is his hero.

Officer Mark Kinsey recounted his harrowing experience to local media after being released from the hospital Monday.

Kinsey said he'd still be sitting in the car if Joe Chambers, 17, had not intervened after his cruiser collided with a pickup Saturday.

Kinsey, 30, told WTXF-TV he was groggy after the crash and unable to put weight on his leg.

Kinsey said he stayed in the car momentarily to radio in his location before Chambers, a volunteer firefighter, and neighbor-

hood resident Dante Johnson pulled him out through the window and moved him away from the burning vehicle.

Chambers said he would do the same thing "any day of the week."

Bison reach new home on Indian reservation

MT BILLINGS — A group of wild bison relocated from Yellowstone National Park has arrived at northeastern Montana's Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

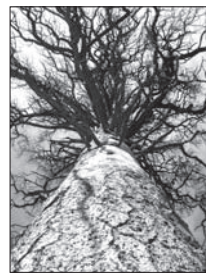
Fort Peck Fish and Game Director Robert Magman said two tractor trailers carrying almost 100 bison were being unloaded on the reservation Thursday.

A third shipment of several dozen more animals was due Friday.

The bison initially will be kept in a 140-acre pen before moving to a 13,000-acre pasture later this month. They join about 48 Yellowstone bison previously obtained by Fort Peck's Assiniboine and Sioux tribes.

Magman said the tribes hope to expand the herd to about 300 animals. He said the bison will be used for food, in cultural ceremonies and as seed stock to help create new herds elsewhere.

THE CENSUS



50 The height in feet a 4-year-old boy climbed up a tree on a dare from an older brother.

A tree crew rescued Parker Clark in Geneva County, Ala., on Tuesday after about two hours. Grandmother Barbara Dawsey said the boy and two his brothers were playing outside when she went outside to see the preschooler up the tree. Dawsey called 911, but a tree crew rescued the boy after firefighters couldn't reach him. The child wasn't hurt.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE



Ornamental plaster

An old art form arises from the trash

BY SAMANTHA MELAMED
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA

Thirty-five years ago, when John Doherty was doing rehab work for Campus Apartments, removing old plasterwork to make way for drywall, he was struck by the beauty of the buildings' antique plaster flourishes — all destined for the landfill. Instead of throwing the pieces out, he began salvaging them to sell at a flea market on the weekends. Then he learned that he could make rubber molds of the intricate pieces and replicate them as many times as he wanted, for use in his own designs. "It became my own Home Depot," he said.

Doherty, now based in Delaware County, Pa., started one of the area's first salvage businesses, with a sideline in plasterwork. "It was the perfect time in Philly, because everything was being blown up and thrown away."

Today, there seems to be a greater appreciation for such architectural detail, but not nearly as many plaster artisans as there were in the heyday of those Victorian Philadelphia mansions.

The remaining craftspeople see demand from historic sites such as the White House, serious institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, not-so-serious institutions such as Las Vegas casinos, and, closer to home, any number of high-end interior designers who are adopting the Victorians' interest in ceiling ornamentation.

David Flaharty got into the business in the '70s, mostly by coincidence. He was a sculptor who rented studio space from a plasterer and began going along on jobs.

They worked together on St. Monica Church in South Philadelphia, which was being rebuilt after a fire. Then, their work caught the attention of Edward Vason Jones, architect for the White House during Richard M. Nixon's administration.

That led to more than 20 years of commissions, including decorating the State Department's reception rooms and the secretary of state's office, which had "looked like a Howard Johnson's" because of their mid-century construction.



Examples of sculptor David Flaharty's work hang in his Green Lane, Pa., studio. Flaharty, top left, practices the all-but-lost art of using antique molds to restore plaster work. He has done numerous jobs over the years at the White House and St. Monica Church in Philadelphia.

PHOTOS BY CHARLES FOX, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/MCT

In the White House, he has done what has to be among the most televised ceiling medallions — the one in the Blue Room used each year to hook up the lights for the official White House Christmas tree. "Every year, I see it on TV," he said.

Flaharty works much as his predecessors did a century ago, carving molds or making them from existing pieces, and then casting them in plaster — though he sometimes substitutes sturdier synthetic materials, such as urethane rubber. He has amassed about 300 molds of decorative elements that can be reconfigured in endless variations, to make large ceiling medallions or small ones, or crown moldings that range from streamlined to baroque.

Because so many shops have closed, James Kuryloski, owner of Felber Ornamental Plastering Corp. in Norristown, Pa., gets calls from across the country for specialized jobs.

His recent projects have included providing lavish adornments for the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wis., and working from old photographs and paintings to carve molds for plasterwork in the Maryland Statehouse's Old Senate Chamber, which has been restored to how it looked when George Washington resigned his commission as Continental Army general there.

After 32 years in the business, Kuryloski has collected around 4,000 molds. He uses them not just for restoration work, but also for new construction, where demand has been particularly strong for crown moldings and decorative period ceilings.

"We've been doing a lot of English strapwork ceilings in the last year or two," he said. In those, the entire ceiling is covered with geometric plaster shapes — a process that could cost up to \$10,000.

"A lot of people now don't want their ceilings to be just flat and boring," he said. "They want a modern house that might have lighting and sprinklers and speakers up on the ceiling, and then they put a decorative ceiling on top of it. They want the best of the old and the new."

How evolving technology might influence the future of this craft remains an open question.

Some industrious designers have been tinkering with 3-D scanning of damaged historic plaster pieces, which can then be repaired digitally and recreated with 3-D printers.

For now, Flaharty and others will keep doing it the old-fashioned way — and trying to recruit the next generation of artisans to continue their work.

"It's a dying art," he said, "but I'd like to pass on my trade."

HEALTH & FITNESS

Lose weight without breaking a sweat

Head to the pool and try this 3-part circuit to improve joint health and overall fitness

By RENE LYNCH
Los Angeles Times

Any athlete will tell you: Rest and recovery are critical to any workout regimen. John Platero, director of education for the National Council for Certified Personal Trainers, created this three-move pool circuit to

provide a recovery workout that will get your heart pumping even as it helps care for hard-working joints.

"As we get older, we tend to move less and less," Platero says, and that's why "the pool is magic. It acts as a compression sleeve, protecting the joints."

When you're doing these moves, Platero said, "don't think 'workout' ... think 'controlled movement

with the resistance coming from the water."

Ideally, this circuit — the scarecrow, the Michael Jackson and the bear hug — is done in water that's roughly chest-deep.

Please keep safety in mind.

You're likely to get winded, so you might want to stay near the edge of the pool, where you can rest and catch your breath.



1. THE SCARECROW

Gently squat in the water until it's shoulder depth. Position your upper arms straight out at your side, your hands up, palms facing forward, like a scarecrow. Hold your core tight as you lower and raise your forearms, slicing through the water. Let your comfort level dictate your range of motion.

What it does

Gives you a recovery workout on days when your body needs a break but you still want a calorie burn. If you wear a heart-rate monitor, you'll be surprised to see how this circuit sends your heart soaring with very little impact.



2. THE MICHAEL JACKSON

This mimics a move you likely saw from the performer. Raise the knee to hip height, and then gently sway the foot and ankle side to side for an inner and outer leg workout. Alternate legs. You can bend the knee so your foot is reaching out behind you, or simply allow it to dangle as the foot and ankle sway.

How much

Perform these three moves in a circuit, with 10 to 20 repetitions for each move. Repeat the circuit three to five times. Over time, add more repetitions.



3. THE BEAR HUG

Gently squat in the water until it's shoulder depth. Bring your arms forward and around like you're hugging a barrel. Then reverse the movement so you squeeze the shoulder blades and stretch the chest muscles. "The faster you go, the harder it will be. This is going to really help your posture," Platero said.

John Platero, director of education for the National Council for Certified Personal Trainers, demonstrates the three-move pool circuit he created that provides a recovery workout, improving joint health and integrity.

PHOTOS BY DORIANE RAIMAN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT



MOVIES

Suffering for their art

2014's movies suddenly fixated on artistic torment

BY STEVEN ZEITCHIK
Los Angeles Times

“The chief enemy of creativity,” Pablo Picasso once said, “is good sense.”

He might have added that it doesn't get on so well with healthy living or emotional well-being either. The birth pangs of art have been a staple of the examined life since humans began examining it. Vincent van Gogh lost an ear in such a pursuit. Syd Barrett lost his mind. Ernest Hemingway lost his life.

Such torment has been catnip for filmmakers: the Bette Davis noir “Deception,” “8½,” “Amadeus,” “Black Swan.” The idea of artists grappling with the pain and delusions of their fragile psyches has been as encoded in cinematic DNA as clinical madness has been in the real genome.

But film directors seem especially preoccupied with the subject lately. Visit your local movie theater this fall and you might think you mistakenly walked into the office of the Juilliard psychologist.

Popping up everywhere are movies about people buckling under their own artistic weight — the kind that comes with being a certain type of jazz musician (“Whiplash”), actor (“Birdman”), novelist (“Listen Up Philip”), painter (Mike Leigh’s “Mr. Turner”) and actor again (Al Pacino’s “The Humbling”).

The disciplines vary; the personalities run the gamut. Yet all of these movies rest on one key dramatic idea: being a creative person is really, really hard.

In an age when iPhones have armed armies of Annie Leibovitzes and anyone with a typewriter is instantly a writer, stories about artistic struggle are on everyone's minds a little more, including directors. Or maybe creative people just don't want to stretch too far.

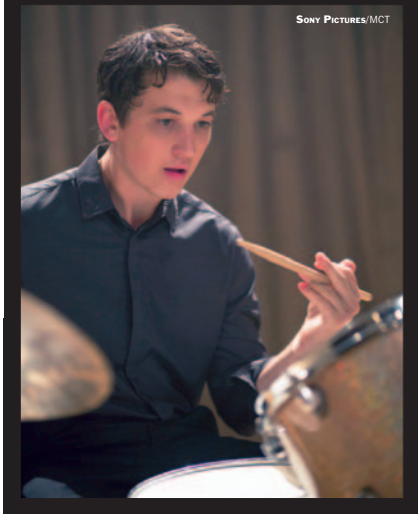
“The truth is that filmmakers like me can't always step out of our own lives,” said “Listen Up Philip” director Alex Ross Perry. “Philip” is about a writer (Jason Schwartzman) at war with himself and the world around him, a man of the belief that normal behavior is incompatible with great art. It ups the ante by putting him in a relationship with a photographer (Elisabeth Moss) who has her own issues working with other

Right: Naomi Watts plays a Broadway actress, Lesley, in “Birdman.”

FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES/MCT



SONY PICTURES/MCT



Above: Michael Keaton plays Riggan Thomson, a washed-up actor who wants to reinvent his career, in “Birdman.”

Left: Miles Teller stars as 19-year-old jazz drummer Andrew Neyman, who's haunted by his father's failed writing career, in “Whiplash.”

people. Though the film is about a novelist, a photographer and the novelist's self-centered literary mentor, Perry wrote it as a cloak for his own dilemmas — not out of laziness or solipsism but because he found something compelling in the idea that for him, as for his characters, the collaborative stage of the artistic process can be a challenge.

“As I'm writing a script I think, writing is fun,” Perry said. “And wouldn't it be easier if the creative output was entirely about me sitting here working by myself?”

Of course, plenty of artists can go mad that way, too.

For the purveyors of screen entertainment, creative achievement is a juicy, hanging fastball. We tend to romanticize it even as we privately believe we could pull it off too, too, if only inspiration would be kind enough to strike or time and circumstance generous enough to allow.

That gives artist characters an appealing on-screen tension. Movies about creative sorts simultaneously hold a kind of romance and relatability. Watching Michael Keaton's Hollywood actor Riggan Thomson struggle in Alejandro González Iñárritu's “Birdman” to mount a play and restore the luster to his reputation, we think how uncommonly thrilling it must be for someone to have all this artistic capital to spend. Then we let our mind wander to how we might spend it better.

Creativity is also something that plays into our sense — heightened in this go-go, FOMO world — that someone else is having it a lot easier than we are, a spiritual escapist fantasy of sorts. Sure, it can't be easy to master Shakespeare, as Al Pacino's actor character must do in “The Humbling,” Barry Levinson's upcoming film about a stage actor possibly losing his mind.

“The fear of being judged against others who've come before is very powerful,” Pacino said, referring both to his character and to his own turns playing the Bard. But compared to finding a babysitter or making a mortgage payment, the inconvenience quotient is low.

Needless to say, stories about these topics also come with built-in drama. In “Whiplash,” Miles Teller plays a jazz drummer who believes his hands must literally bleed if he's to become the next Charlie Parker — a self-flagellating perfectionism reinforced by his abusive teacher (J.K. Simmons), who likes to say that “there are no two words in the English language more harmful than ‘good job.’” Sparks fly before anyone's lit a match.

But just to be sure, the director, Damien Chazelle, offers some heavy stakes — Teller's Andrew Neyman character tosses away a promising romantic relationship to commit fully to drumming.

“A lot of movies about artists are set up like sports movies, where they build to a big victory and the artist achieves their art like the athlete wins the big game, which is by learning how to balance their life at the end,” Chazelle said. “And, really, if someone is throwing themselves into their art, that means their personal life will probably suffer and vice versa. It can't always be

one happy package. That's what I wanted to show.”

That doesn't mean depicting creative torment is easy. Almost by definition, artistic breakthroughs happen out of sight of the human eye and thus out of view of the camera lens. For all the write-what-you-know appeal of movies about artists, depicting one in the throes of struggle is — fittingly — hard work. There's barely a film about a writer that doesn't contain a scene of him or her ruminating at a typewriter or computer screen — and just as reliably leaving us to wonder what on Earth is going through their minds.

Leigh's sprawling, evocative “Mr. Turner” is about the 19th century artist J.M.W. Turner (Timothy Spall), an irascible talent whose unconventional landscape paintings heralded an era of Abstract art, though not before he dealt with pretty concrete personal problems. This is refreshingly not about the familiar yearning, dewy-eyed Romantic artist.

“I'm not sure you could ever show the creative moment, at least as I experience it. It's too elusive,” Leigh said.

“What you can do, or at least as I tried to do here, is show the grubby curmudgeon of a man in profound reaction to the elements around him. That's interesting,” he added of his unkempt and at times unlikely protagonist.

VIDEO GAMES

Futuristic combat

Stunning graphics, engaging story make new 'Call of Duty' a must-play

By TIM BOWERS

Special to
Stars and Stripes

SledgeHammer Games breaks ground with "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare." Many people might discard it as just another "Call of Duty" game, but it deserves a shot.

The game has an immersive story, awe-inspiring graphics and a fun co-op mode. The first-person shooter also incorporates enough changes to make it feel very different while still maintaining enough familiar elements to make it feel like a "Call of Duty" game.

The game starts in the year 2053, with the U.S. military engaged in a counter-offensive to push invading North Koreans back from Seoul, South Korea. Gamers play as a Marine named Jack Mitchell. Things go awry during the fighting, and Mitchell is severely wounded.

After leaving the military, Mitchell is approached by Jonathan Irons, the owner of ATLAS, a private military company, and is offered a job as a field operative. ATLAS provides Mitchell with many new and improved gadgets. It also eventually shows that it has some dark ambitions.

The ensuing story never has a dull moment, and the advanced technology and weapons, although far-fetched, make for impressive combat situations.

For example, each soldier is equipped with an Exo suit that allows him to double jump, power dodge, slow down rapid descents and forcibly move objects that no normal human could move. These suits and their abilities represent the greatest departure from previous "Call of Duty" games. The maneuverability and speed provided by these suits represent a fundamental change in the way combat unfolds. They also make the gamer feel a little like one of the jet-pack-equipped troops in the science-fiction shooter "Titanfall," which was developed by a team that split from the "Call of Duty" franchise.

One of the coolest gadgets used in the story mode is the Mute Charge. Once activated, the Mute Charge

dampens all sound, which allows the use of silenced weapons to take out enemies without alerting other combatants. The game does not explain how Mute Charges work or why the enemies never notice when their hearing is suddenly dampened, but it does make for some really fun and interesting fights.

"Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare" has some of the most realistic and beautiful graphics ever seen in a game. Whether it's fighting your way through Seoul, or crawling through the ruins of Detroit, the attention to detail is astounding. Nothing seems out of place or rushed; it appears that there was a real desire to create a visually breathtaking game. The cutscenes are masterfully created, almost to a point where it seems that they are live-action rather than digitally rendered. This is enhanced by some excellent voice acting, most notably by Kevin Spacey who plays the role of ATLAS' power-hungry leader. The only other game that could possibly compare graphically is "The Last of Us."

Most of the new technology is brought into the multiplayer mode, which presents some new tactical options. However, matches still feel similar to those in earlier games in the franchise. If you like the pace and style of previous "Call of Duty" games, you'll like this one too. If you don't, you won't.

The Exo Survival mode allows players to team up and fight off waves of increasingly tougher enemies. These include a mixture of standard troops, dogs, drones and troops in heavily armored Goliath suits.

At certain points, players have to complete special tasks, such as defusing bombs, to earn points that can be used to upgrade the Exo suits and weapons. If one of these tasks is failed, some form of penalty is placed on the player for a limited time. It can be anything from a hacked Exo suit, which causes the screen to be scrambled, to a pistol-only restriction.

If the team manages to survive 25 waves of enemies, players start all over again with even tougher opponents. There are several maps to choose from, and you can unlock more as you progress.

The game receives a mature rating for violence, blood and strong language.

Bottom line: A SledgeHammer's "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare" is an extremely entertaining game. The mix of futuristic weapons and beautifully crafted graphics lets the player kill enemy combatants in many interesting ways.

Platforms: Xbox One, Xbox 360, PlayStation 4, PS3, PC

Online: callofduty.com/advancedwarfare



Photos courtesy of Activision

"Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare" envisions the powerful battlegrounds of the future, where both technology and tactics have evolved to usher in a new era of combat for the franchise.



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

BOOKS

'13 Soldiers' a collection of powerful stories

John McCain reveals experiences of US troops who fought in major conflicts in latest book

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

John McCain delivers the thesis of his new book, "13 Soldiers," with an opening quote from renowned British historian John Keegan. "What battles have in common is human: the behaviors of men struggling to reconcile their instinct for self-preservation, their sense of honor and the achievement of some aim over which other men are ready to kill them," Keegan wrote in his 1976 book, "The Face of Battle."

The book by the senator and former presidential contender, co-written with his longtime staffer and collaborator Mark Salter, is a meditation on the personal experience of war. It follows the stories of individual troops — often told in their own words — as they fight and struggle through 13 of the United States' most consequential conflicts.

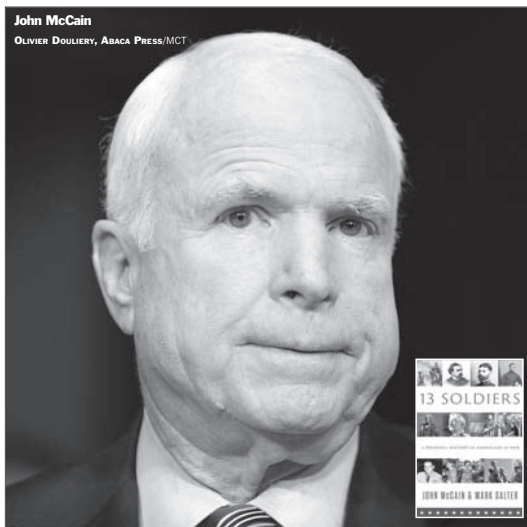
It begins with the wry recollections of an often starving Continental soldier in the Revolutionary War and follows history through a Navy SEAL's grinding firefights in Iraq.

"They are about more than one thing, but they share a common experience," McCain told Stars and Stripes.

The subject and format are not new for McCain, who in 1999 wrote a best-selling account of his own struggles as a prisoner of war in Vietnam in "Faith of My Fathers." In 2004, he published a collection of stories on heroism and leadership among famous and not-so-famous figures in "Why Courage Matters."

"13 Soldiers" treads similar ground. At times, it seems overly romantic. McCain describes George Washington during a battle at Kip's Bay by saying, "he wheeled his white charger amid the noise and confusion, his powerful legs gripped the animal firmly, his broad-shouldered, six-foot-two-inch frame sat erect in the saddle." We get reminded of the fateful charge of Marines at Belleau Wood during World War I and the famous battle cry of a first sergeant: "C'mon, you sons of bitches, do you want to live forever?"

Ultimately the book is not about towering military figures such as Washington. McCain's writing is most interesting for its focus on colorful, little-known characters



and an embrace of the political controversies that have often surrounded our conflicts.

Samuel Chamberlain, the soldier McCain channels to tell about the Mexican-American War, described himself as a scoundrel and appears to be a prodigious exaggerator and liar. McCain treats the reader to some of Chamberlain's entertaining tales of admiring senoritas, daring escapes and violent brawls.

Most are untrue, he reminds readers, and then goes on to separate out the accounts of a "racist, a religious bigot, a braggart, a murderer, a serial seducer, and a deserter" that are likely true. The result is an illuminating firsthand view into the U.S. fight

against Santa Anna's Mexican forces in the late 1840s.

To his credit, McCain does not shy away from the moral vagaries of war and those who fight. He chose to tell about the Philippine-American War through Marine Maj. Gen. Littleton Waller. "Tony" Tazewell Waller, who led troops in Southeast Asia five decades after Chamberlain's war in Mexico.

The United States employed brutal tactics against the Philippine insurgents after ousting Spain, including mass executions and the burning of villages. The conflict has been compared to the Vietnam War. McCain enumerates the tactics and atrocities, recounting a slaughter in the town of

Balangiga, in Eastern Samar, Philippines, in chilling detail.

Waller comes off looking better than others in command — his superior Army Gen. Jacob Smith famously ordered him to kill every Filipino over 10 years old able to fight. But Waller was eventually put on trial for killing civilians and became a symbol of U.S. atrocities in the Philippines. He was acquitted by a court-martial.

Women receive two later chapters in McCain's book covering the Persian Gulf War and the Iraq War. McCain, an old hand in Senate politics, seems to relish a good political fight and goes after military leaders for denying women combat roles for so long.

He points out that 159 military women had died in Iraq and Afghanistan, mostly from hostile fire. "It cost them everything to be there, and until recently their government thought they should haven't (sic) been there," McCain writes.

Monica Lin Brown, an Army combat medic who served in Afghanistan, is offered as a prime example of women showing their worth under fire. Brown deployed to Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khost province, where soldiers bent the rules and allowed her to accompany a patrol in need of a medic.

Technically, Brown was not allowed to be outside the wire on patrol. But she would later be awarded the Silver Star after helping to save the lives of two soldiers who were gravely wounded during an enemy ambush.

History buffs are not likely to learn much new from "13 Soldiers." Although the characters are probably new, the yarns are mostly well known. At times, the book also gets bogged down by play-by-play descriptions of battles and troop movements, which can be difficult to follow without deeper context or maps.

But these are great and powerful stories that deserve to be retold, and McCain and Salter do an admirable job of showing us why. McCain said they are the stories that have inspired him and could be useful as others go off to war. Indeed, as we head into a new war in Iraq, it is good to know where our fighting men and women have already been and what they saw there.

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A gripping 'One Million Steps' examines Marines in Afghanistan

By TONY PERRY
Los Angeles Times

In the preface to "One Million Steps: A Marine Platoon at War," Bing West announces that "this is my sixth and final book about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan." If so, West has clearly left the best for last: a gripping, boot-level account of Marines in Afghanistan during the bloody struggle with Taliban fighters for control of an obscure village called Sangin.

When the longest war in U.S. history is finished (or at least U.S. involvement in it), "One Million Steps" might well stand as a classic account of what it was like to be a grunt in that war, assigned each day to find the elusive enemy and kill him.

West knows the Marine Corps. A Marine officer in Vietnam, he was

an assistant secretary of defense during the Reagan administration.

His style is narrative, almost novelistic, capturing the personalities of individual Marines and their roles in the platoon. His reporting comes from walking with the Marines during perilous patrols in an area infested with buried bombs and "murder holes" cut into mud houses so Taliban snipers could attack from ambush.

The Marines depicted are from the 3rd Platoon, Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Regiment, The Camp Pendleton-based battalion

had more killed and wounded than any other Marine battalion in Afghanistan: 25 killed in combat, more than 200 wounded, including more than two dozen suffering amputations, during the deployment that stretched from fall 2010 to spring 2011.

"The platoon had depth of leadership," West writes. "Like wolves, they become accustomed to the routine of the hunt. When a leader goes down, another must step forward, be accepted, and be followed." As casualties mounted, the secretary of Defense offered to allow the Marines to withdraw. Marine generals refused.

A sergeant explained to West: "It didn't matter how hard the next fight was. Our attitude was — you killed one of us, we kill 20 of you."

West's respect for the young

Marines is balanced by a withering disdain for much of the military leadership, including the commander in chief and the Army general who was in charge of the Afghanistan mission until a 2010 story in Rolling Stone by the now late Michael Hastings got him fired.

To West, the U.S. strategy of nation-building, of winning hearts and minds and trying to buck up the Afghan government, is folly. Sangin is a Taliban stronghold where farmers grow the poppy crop used to make heroin and provide profits to support the insurgency against the government in far-distant Kabul. Taliban fighters enjoyed sanctuary in nearby Pakistan. According to West, "Sangin was the inevitable over-reach of a strategy blindly wilful and excessively ambitious."

He predicts a quick collapse by the Afghan army once the U.S. departs on the timetable declared by the president. "What a tangled web we weave when we deceive ourselves. The war didn't end because Mr. Obama cut. Al Qaeda and the Taliban remained on the battlefield, undefeated."

West's gloomy prediction aside, "One Million Steps" is about foreign policy. It's about young men in Sgt. Anthony Alcala, 26, a sniper who fought bravely, "always leading from the front," but who was killed by friendly fire and posthumously awarded the Navy Cross.

"Any grunt who is not a fatalist is foolish," West writes. "Death is as random as it is unexplainable. If you're very skillful — like Matt — you might be the odds a little, but not much."



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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Takata loses \$342M as probe widens

By GREG GARDNER

Detroit Free Press

Takata, the Japanese air bag supplier at the center of a federal safety investigation of exploding air bags linked to 7.8 million recalled vehicles in the U.S. and four deaths, lost \$341.7 million in the six months ended Sept. 30, the company reported Thursday.

The loss contrasts with a \$6.8 million profit in the year-earlier period. The company faces a Nov. 24 deadline to produce extensive documents to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration about when and how it learned that some of its air bags could detonate with excessive force and injure or kill drivers or their passengers.

A grand jury for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York has subpoenaed Takata documents about the air bag defects.

Takata is the world's second-largest air bag maker with 22 per-



SHIZO KAMATASHI/AP

A security guard stands Nov. 6 by child seats manufactured and displayed by Takata Co. at an automaker's showroom in Tokyo.

cent of the market. But problems with air bags that can explode in conditions of high humidity have led 10 automakers to recall nearly 8 million vehicles in the U.S. and 12 million worldwide over the last 13 years.

Bloomberg reported Thursday that Honda has disclosed that a

malfunctioning Takata air bag caused the death of a woman in Malaysia in July.

The automaker learned about the accident in August and traced that bag to a Takata plant in Georgia, a Honda spokeswoman told Bloomberg.

While the recall affects more

than 50 models sold by 10 automakers, Honda sold more than 5 million of those.

NHTSA wants to know Takata's current production of replacement inflators, its ability to increase that production and how much it could rely on competing air bag suppliers to make enough inflators to repair the nearly 8 million recalled vehicles.

Two competing air bag suppliers, TRW Automotive and Autoliv, have said they can help.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 17)	\$1.2778
Dollar buys (Nov. 17)	€0.7826
British pound (Nov. 17)	\$1.61
Japanese yen (Nov. 17)	¥111.00
South Korean won (Nov. 17)	₩1,072.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.5603/0.6409
Canada (dollar)	1.1348
China (Yuan)	6.1295
Denmark (Krone)	5.9856
Egypt (Pound)	7.5563
Euro	\$1.2417/0.8054
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7543
Hungary (Forint)	246.24
Israel (Shekel)	3.2821
Japan (Yen)	111.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2920
Norway (Krone)	6.8602
Philippines (Peso)	45.05
Poland (Zloty)	3.40
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7523
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3004
South Korea (Won)	1,104.40
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9681
Thailand (Baht)	32.88
Turkey (Lira)	2.2405

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

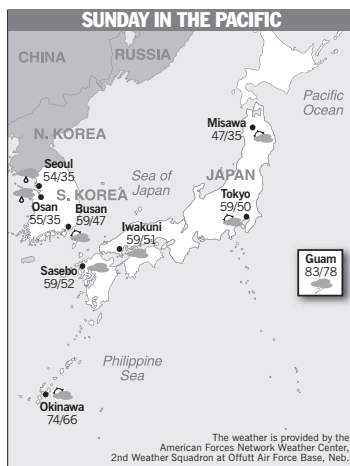
Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.07

MARKET WATCH

Nov. 13, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	40.59
	17,652.79
Nasdaq composite	5.00
	4,680.14
Standard & Poor's 500	1.08
	2,039.33
Russell 2000	-11.05
	1,175.42

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Saturday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	64	32	Cldy	Chatanooga	47	32	Cir	Fort Wayne	33	26	PCldy	Louisville	38	32	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	46	32	Cldy	Cheyenne	13	-2	Snow	Fresno	67	49	PCldy	Lubbock	63	24	PCldy
Albany, N.Y.	39	24	Cldy	Chicago	32	25	PCldy	Goodland	24	3	Cir	Macon	56	35	Cir
Albuquerque	59	35	Cldy	Cincinnati	38	28	Cldy	Grand Junction	47	18	Cldy	Madison	59	22	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	43	27	PCldy	Cleveland	32	27	Cldy	Grand Rapids	32	26	Cldy	Medford	53	32	Cldy
Anchorage	37	21	Cir	Colorado Springs	33	9	Cldy	Great Falls	15	7	PCldy	Memphis	45	35	PCldy
Asheville	41	24	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	50	32	Cir	Green Bay	26	17	PCldy	Miami Beach	80	71	PCldy
Atlanta	49	35	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	55	38	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	45	28	Cir	Midland-Odessa	68	30	PCldy
Atlantic City	44	27	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	38	28	PCldy	Hartford	42	29	PCldy	Milwaukee	30	25	PCldy
Austin	62	42	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	38	22	Cir	Harrisburg	40	27	Cir	Mpls-St Paul	23	7	Snow
Baltimore	45	29	Cir	Corpus Christi	61	58	Cldy	Helena	16	-1	PCldy	Missoula	15	1	PCldy
Baton Rouge	59	47	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	49	39	Cldy	Honolulu	62	69	PCldy	Mobile	68	45	Cir
Bilings	42	29	Cir	Dayton	36	27	PCldy	Houston	56	53	Cldy	Montgomery	55	37	Cir
Birmingham	51	38	Cir	Daytona Beach	70	60	PCldy	Huntsville	48	35	Cir	Nashville	45	33	PCldy
Bismarck	13	1	Cir	Denver	20	2	Snow	Indianapolis	33	25	PCldy	New Orleans	59	54	Cir
Boise	56	8	Cir	Des Moines	30	17	Snow	Jacksonville	55	41	Cir	New York City	42	33	Cir
Boston	39	30	Cir	Detroit	35	25	PCldy	Jacksonville	63	52	PCldy	Newark	44	32	PCldy
Bridgeport	42	29	Cir	Duluth	20	5	PCldy	Juneau	37	26	Cir	Norfolk-Va.	44	30	PCldy
Brownsville	68	62	Cldy	El Paso	69	45	Cldy	Kansas City	31	14	Snow	Norfolk-Va.	44	30	PCldy
Buffalo	37	32	PCldy	Elkins	36	24	Cir	Knoxville	44	29	Cir	Omaha	31	9	Snow
Burlington, Vt.	37	25	Cir	Erie	32	30	Snow	Lake Charles	58	51	Cldy	Orlando	73	58	PCldy
Caribou, Maine	19	16	Cir	Eugene	44	26	PCldy	Lansing	32	25	Cldy	Paduach	38	27	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	52	40	Cir	Fargo	17	7	PCldy	Las Vegas	70	49	PCldy	Pendleton	25	6	Cir
Charleston, W.Va.	39	29	PCldy	Flagstaff	51	30	PCldy	Lexington	37	31	PCldy	Philadelphia	44	32	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	47	26	Cir	Fort Smith	43	31	Cldy	Little Rock	44	35	Cldy	Phoenix	79	57	Cir
								Los Angeles	72	57	PCldy	Pittsburgh	35	27	Cldy

National temperature extremes
Hi: Thu., 85, Hollywood, Fla.
Lo: Thu., -34, Lucerne, Wyo.

STARS AND STRIPES

DAILY HEADLINES



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TODAY'S TOP HEADLINES FROM STARS AND STRIPES.

STARS AND STRIPES

WEEKLY UPDATE



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note from bases around the world.

STARS AND STRIPES OFFERS A SUMMARY
OF THE LEADING STORIES OF THE WEEK.



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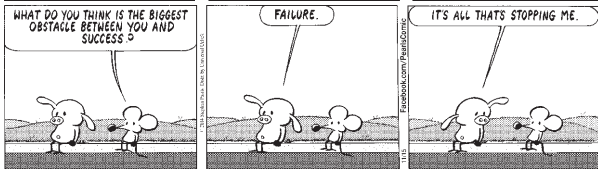
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



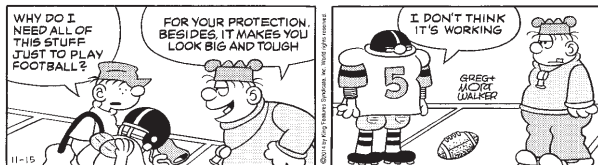
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



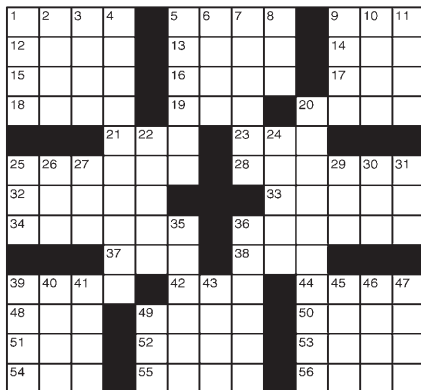
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Get lippy
- 5 Firearms
- 9 Rx overuser
- 12 Groundbreaking invention?
- 13 St. Louis landmark
- 14 A billion years
- 15 Chills and fever
- 16 Edgar — Burroughs
- 17 Potent stick
- 18 Eli's alma mater
- 19 Spelldown
- 20 Fill till full
- 21 As well
- 23 Pair
- 25 "The Daily Show" guest, often
- 28 Got away from
- 32 Literary intro
- 33 Put before a judge
- 34 Wholly absorbed
- 36 Crucial
- 37 Pi follower
- 38 Paying gunk
- 39 Italy's silhouette
- 42 Thanksgiving veggie
- 44 Roundish hairstyle
- 48 Suitable
- 49 Sean Lennon's mom
- 50 Lowly laborer
- 51 Long, crosser
- 52 "How sweet —!"

- 53 Uncomplicated
- 54 Worldwide workers' grp.
- 55 Gas for air
- 56 Charon's river

- 22 Pizzazz
- 24 Extreme
- 25 Mimic
- 26 Grecian vessel
- 27 Anderson's "High —"
- 29 Conk out
- 30 Still, in verse
- 31 Banned bug spray
- 35 Camry or Prius
- 36 Nth
- 39 South Seas paradise
- 40 October birthstone
- 41 "Beetle Bailey" dog
- 43 Related
- 45 Accomplishment
- 46 Optimistic
- 47 Cameo quartz
- 49 Shriek bark

DOWN

- 1 Neuter
- 2 Plankton component
- 3 Beelzebub's buy
- 4 Love
- 5 Port
- 6 Great Lake
- 7 Give approval
- 8 Commonest English word
- 9 Crumbly cheese
- 10 Word of admonition
- 11 Initial chip
- 20 Lose loser's emotion

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-15

CRYPTOQUIP

WNJMRXM D'E NDCQ JZ ZOG

JMQ OZBNE'V KWGTDQVJ

OWJTM, D CGZO JMWJ'V

ZGNH OBDVJ-KRN JMDGCDGX.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: AFTER THAT GUY KNOWINGLY PARKED HIS CAR IN THE WRONG PLACE, HE HAD A SENSE OF IMPOUNDING DOOM.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: J equals T

SPORTS BRIEFS/NBA

Briefly

Tigers reach 4-year deal with Martinez

The Associated Press

DETROIT — A person with knowledge of the deal says the Detroit Tigers have agreed to a \$68 million, four-year contract with slugger Victor Martinez.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because the agreement has not been announced.

The 35-year-old Martinez had perhaps his best season career in 2014, hitting .335 with 32 home runs and 103 RBIs and helping Detroit to its fourth straight AL Central title.

The switch-hitter has hit over .300 in eight of his last nine seasons, not counting 2012, which he missed because of a knee injury.

In other baseball news: ■ St. Louis Cardinals rookie outfielder Oscar Taveras was crushed at the time of his fatal car crash last month in his Caribbean homeland, an official in the Dominican Republic said Wednesday.

Tessie Sanchez, a spokeswoman for the Dominican attorney general's office, told The Associated Press toxicology reports showed Taveras had a blood-alcohol level five times the country's legal limit when he lost control of his car Oct. 26 on a highway in the tourist region of Puerto Plata.

Taveras' 18-year-old girlfriend, Edilia Arvelo, was in his 2014 Chevy Camaro when it ran off the road. She also died.

■ Texas Rangers general manager Jon Daniels has received a three-year contract extension through the 2018 season.

Daniels was only 28 and the youngest GM in major league history when he got the job in October 2005. During Daniels' tenure as GM, the Rangers went to their only World Series appearances in 2010 and 2011.

■ Longtime manager and star shortstop Alvin Dark has died. He was 92.

Dark, the 1948 major league Rookie of the Year and a three-time All-Star, played and managed World Series champions.

In 1951, Dark began one of the greatest rallies in baseball history with a leadoff single in the bottom of the ninth inning for the New York Giants in an NL pennant playoff against Brooklyn. Bobby Thomson capped that comeback with a home run that became known as "The Shot Heard 'Round the World."

France believes Chase format is improvement

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — NASCAR chairman Brian France believes the new elimination-style playoffs have been a success in their debut season, and the sanctioning body has no issue if Ryan Newman wins the championship without a victory this year.

France announced the revamped Chase for the Sprint Cup championship in January and promised it would place a

greater importance on winning. Teams could clinch a berth in the 16-driver field with a victory during the regular season, and they could advance through the three rounds of the Chase by winning in each segment.

But Newman has defied the model by using consistent finishes to earn a spot in Sunday's final four. He'll race Kevin Harvick, Joey Logano and Denny Hamlin, who have a combined 10 victories this season.

In other NASCAR news: ■ NASCAR chairman Brian France says no disciplinary action will be taken against Kurt Busch while police in Delaware investigate a claim of domestic assault made by his former girlfriend.

France says "it wouldn't be right to intervene" until the investigation is over. Speaking Friday at Homestead-Miami Speedway, France says he is sensitive to the "rightful, heightened awareness on domestic abuse and violence."

Bills CB McKelvin out with broken ankle

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Buffalo Bills cornerback Lodeis McKelvin is out indefinitely with a broken right ankle.

McKelvin was injured while attempting to make a tackle during Thursday night's 22-9 loss to the Miami Dolphins.

Coach Doug Marrone said Friday the Bills are still evaluating whether to put McKelvin on injured reserve, and how they would fill his roster spot.

In other NFL news: ■ Dallas defensive tackle Amobi Okoye will have to wait until 2015 to return from a brain condition that has kept him out of football for two seasons.

The former top 10 pick was cleared to practice in August after spending a year recovering from anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis, which causes brain swelling.

The Cowboys had until Thursday to activate Okoye off the non-football injury list. Since Dallas didn't release Okoye, he could make the roster next year. He signed a two-year contract.

Pearl Harbor to host college games in 2016

BRISTOL, Conn. — Four powerhouse college basketball programs will play games at Pearl Harbor less than a month before the 75th anniversary of the attack that plunged America into World War II.

Indiana will face Kansas and Arizona will meet Michigan State at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Honolulu on Veterans Day on Nov. 11, 2016.

The surprise Japanese air attack occurred Dec. 7, 1941.

ESPN also announced Friday that next season's game will feature Pittsburgh and Gonzaga at the historic Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. and Oklahoma State and Kentucky in Lexington, Ky. The game will be broadcast on ESPN2.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James watches a presentation during a gathering at Fenway Park in Boston on Thursday. James joined a business panel to discuss the ways sponsors and athletes try to engage fans in a digital age.

James keeps it real when dealing with social media

Few connect as effectively with fans as Cavs' star

BY JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Even with almost 17 million followers on Twitter and nearly 22 million on Facebook, LeBron James didn't hesitate when asked his preferred method of connecting with fans.

"The basketball court," the Cleveland Cavaliers star said on Thursday during an "idea exchange" at Fenway Park.

Speaking to business leaders at the home of the Boston Red Sox, James said his goal was to remain authentic, whether it's in his business relationships or his interactions with fans. The two-time NBA champion said he won't endorse a product unless he likes it, and he won't speak out on an issue unless he means it.

"The people, the consumer, they know what's real and what's fake," said James, whose Cavaliers were in town for Friday's game against the Boston Celtics. "You cannot shortcut, you cannot cheat, because they will know."

James has one of the top 50 Twitter followings, second among world athletes only to footballer Cristiano Ronaldo. He cultivates it with the usual updates about what's going on in his life — his newborn daughter couldn't sleep the previous night — and also with thoughts on larger issues.

"My fans are part of the reason I am where I am today," he

'The people, the consumer, they know what's real and what's fake. You cannot shortcut, you cannot cheat, because they will know.'

LeBron James

Cavaliers forward, speaking on the importance of remaining "authentic" when interacting with fans on social media on Thursday at Fenway Park in Boston. The two-time NBA champion says he won't endorse a product unless he likes it, and won't speak out on an issue unless he means it.

Did you know

LeBron has one of the 50 largest Twitter followings, and the second largest among athletes, behind only Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo.



who was eventually forced to sell the team.

"I make decisions to speak about things when I have knowledge about it," said James, who also spoke out after the 2012 shooting of Trayvon Martin. "Things that I feel passionate about, things that I feel my power and my voice can bring something to, I will speak out about it."

Fans respond to James, according to SapientNitro Chief Marketing Officer Bill Kanarick, who moderated the panel with James and his business partner Maverick Carter. Each tweet he sends leads to 2,800 retweets or responses, Kanarick said; Justin Bieber, who has 56.7 million Twitter followers, has an average of 1,700 interactions per tweet.

"I don't think there's a selfish or commercial interest," Kanarick said. "It's a personal decision to connect with fans."

SOURCE: The Associated Press

said. "I'd love them to ride along this ride."

James was one of the league's most vocal critics of Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, who was recorded making racist statements. James said there was no place in the NBA for Sterling,

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	7	2	.778	
Brooklyn	4	5	.450	2½
Boston	3	6	.333	3
New York	2	7	.222	5
Philadelphia	1	8	.000	6½

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	6	2	.750	
Miami	5	3	.625	1
Atlanta	4	3	.571	1½
Charlotte	3	5	.375	3
Orlando	3	6	.333	3½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	7	2	.778	
Cleveland	3	3	.500	2½
Milwaukee	4	2	.667	1
Indiana	3	6	.333	4
Detroit	2	6	.250	4½

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	8	1	.889	
Houston	1	7	.125	½
Dallas	3	6	.333	2
New Orleans	4	3	.571	3
San Antonio	4	3	.571	3

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	3	6	.333	
Oklahoma City	3	6	.333	3
Utah	2	6	.250	3½
Minnesota	2	6	.250	4
Denver	1	6	.143	4

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	6	2	.750	
Phoenix	3	3	.500	1
L.A. Clippers	4	3	.571	1½
Sacramento	5	4	.556	1½
Lakers	7	1	.875	

Wednesday's games				
Washington 107, Detroit 103				
Atlanta 100, Miami 97				
Oklahoma City 109, Boston 104				
Orlando 97, New York 95				
New Orleans 105, L.A. Lakers 102				
Phoenix 112, Brooklyn 104				
Portland 130, Denver 111				
Houston 113, Minnesota 101				

Thursday's games				
Memphis 111, Sacramento 110				
Chicago 106, Toronto 93				
New Orleans 105, L.A. Lakers 102				
Phoenix 112, Brooklyn 104				
Portland 130, Denver 111				
Houston 113, Minnesota 101				

Friday's games				
Milwaukee at Orlando				
Denver at Atlanta				
Miami at Atlanta				
Cleveland at Boston				
LA at New York				
Minnesota at New Orleans				
Detroit at Oklahoma City				
Philadelphia at Houston				
Charlotte at Phoenix				
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers				

Saturday's games				
Orlando at Washington				
Utah at Toronto				
Atlanta at Cleveland				
Indiana at Chicago				
Detroit at Memphis				
Minnesota at Dallas				
Brooklyn at Portland				
San Antonio at Sacramento				
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers				
Charlotte at Golden State				

Sunday's games				
Orlando at Washington				
Utah at Toronto				
Atlanta at Cleveland				
Indiana at Chicago				
Detroit at Memphis				
Minnesota at Dallas				
Brooklyn at Portland				
San Antonio at Sacramento				
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers				
Charlotte at Golden State				

Thursdays				
Warriors 107, Nets 99				
Brooklyn	107	99		
Warriors	107	99		

Golden State				
Golden State	107	99		
Warriors	107	99		
Brooklyn	107	99		
Warriors	107	99		

Golden State				
Golden State	107	99		
Warriors	107	99		
Brooklyn	107	99		
Warriors	107	99		

Roundup

Lee's buzzer-beater caps Memphis rally over Sacramento

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Courtney Lee scored on a lob pass as time expired to cap a furious fourth-quarter rally, and Memphis came from 26 points down to get a 111-110 victory over Sacramento.

The outcome wasn't decided until after a lengthy review by officials who were trying to determine if the inbound pass from Vince Carter with less than a second left was tipped by the Kings, and also to determine if Lee got the shot off before the horn sounded.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 22 points and 11 assists, while Marc Gasol had 20 points. Lee's reverse layup gave him 16

Three-Point Goals—Brooklyn 3-16 (Williams 2-3, Bogdanovic 1-3, Teletovic 0-1, Plumlee 0-1, Johnson 0-2, Anderson 0-6), Golden State 11-34 (Thompson 4-9, Curry 3-7, Green 3-8, Barnes 1-3, Barbosa 0-3, Igouda 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Brooklyn 53 (Plumlee 8), Golden State 55 (Bogut 14). Assists—Brooklyn 19 (Williams 5), Golden State 30 (Green 7). Total Fouls—Brooklyn 22, Golden State 16. A—19,596 (19,559).

Mavericks 123, 76ers 70

PHILADELPHIA — Mbacha a Moute 2-9 0-4, Thompson 4-4 0-0, Sims 1-3 2-4, Wroten 3-7 3-6 11, McRobles 2-6 2-2 8, Noel 2-7 1-6 5, Carter-Williams 1-6 0-10 19, Sampson 3-8 1-2 8, Johnson 1-5 2-2 4, Davies 2-5 0-0 5, Gordon 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 23-77 17-33 70.

DALLAS — Parsons 4-7 4-6 14, Nowitzki 7-6 2-7, Chandler 3-4 2-3 5, Nelson 0-6 2-2 10, Ellis 7-12 1-2 17, Harris 2-3 2-5 7, Wright 4-7 6-7 14, Aminu 1-6 0-0 3, Barea 3-1 1-7, Crowder 2-7 1-6, Smith 1-1 3-4 5, Jefferson 3-6 1-8, Villanueva 4-6 0-0 10, Totals 41-80 30-36 123.

PHILADELPHIA — 10 15 24 17-70 Dallas 38 25 28-122 Three-Point Goals—Philadelphia 7-27 (Wroten 2-5, McRobles 2-6, Davies 1-2, Sampson 1-2, Carter-Williams 1-4, Gordon 0-1, Mbacha a Moute 0-2, Thompson 0-2), Golden State 11-32 (Villanueva 2-4, Ellis 2-4, Parsons 2-5, Nowitzki 1-2, Jefferson 1-2, Harris 1-3, Aminu 1-4, Crowder 1-4, Barea 0-1, Nelson 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 59 (Carter-Williams 8), Dallas 56 (Chandler 10). Assists—Philadelphia 9 (Carter-Williams 5), Dallas 33 (Barea 11). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 24, Dallas 25. A—19,604 (19,200).

Grizzlies 111, Kings 110

SACRAMENTO — Gay 8-7 8-8 25, Thompson 3-5 0-0 6, Cousins 8-17 6-7 22, Collison 6-11 6-7 20, McLemore 6-12 2-7 17, Casspi 0-1 0-0 0, Landry 3-7 4-4 10, Evans 1-3 0-0 2, Staushaus 1-2 0-0 3, Sessions 1-3 4-5 5, Totals 37-77 29-34 110.

MEMPHIS — Prince 1-2 0-0 2, Randolph 6-13 5-8 17, Gasol 5-13 10-11 20, Conley 8-15 6-22, Allen 0-5 0-0 0, Udrih 2-3 0-0 4, Lee 6-9 3-16, Ponderster 1-2 0-0 3, Kouros 3-4 2-8, Leuer 3-4 2-4 8, Carter 4-5 0-11 11, Totals 39-77 27-34 111.

SACRAMENTO 38 24 29-110 Memphis 16 30 35-111 Three-Point Goals—Sacramento 7-13 (McLemore 3-6, Collison 2-3, Staushaus 1-1, Gay 1-2, Sessions 0-1), Memphis 6-9 (Carter 3-4, Ponderster 1-1, Lee 1-1, Conley 1-3). Fouled Out—L.A. Lakers 11, Sacramento 51 (Cousins 12), Memphis 39 (Randolph 8). Assists—Sacramento 12 (Collison 5), Memphis 24 (Conley 11). Total Fouls—Sacramento 26, Memphis 25. Technicals—Cousins, Conley, Randolph. A—15,666 (18,119).

Bulls 100, Raptors 93

CHICAGO — Dunleavy 5-10 2-4 14, Gasol 12-19 3-4 27, Noah 3-5 0-2 6, Rose 5-19 10-20, Butler 7-10 6-8 21, Gibson 5-11 0-0 10, Hinrich 0-2 2-2 2, Brooks 0-4 0-0 0, Moore 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 37-77 22-32 100.

TORONTO — Ross 105-100-012, A.J. Johnson 4-9 8-17 4, Valanciunas 4-9 0-8 6, B. Williams 19-1-3 20, DeRozan 3-17 4-14 10, Patterson 1-2 0-0 3, Williams 1-4 0-0 3, Conley 11-11 0-0 0, J. Johnson 7-9 2-3 16, Hansbrough 3-4 7 20, Totals 35-69 15-29.

CHICAGO 24 28 14-100 Toronto 22 27 30-100 Point Goals—Chicago 14-27, Bulls 12-25, Butler 1-3, Rose 1-5, Brooks 1-1, McDermott 0-1, Toronto 8-25 (Lopez 2-4, Rose 2-4, Johnson 1-1, Williams 3-3, Patterson 1-3, Johnson 0-1, DeRozan 0-1, Valanciunas 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 63 (Gasol 11), Toronto 50 (Valanciunas 8). Assists—Chicago 26 (Noah, Butler 6), Toronto 17 (Lowry 4, Rose 4). Chicago 18, Toronto 28. A—19,800 (19,800).

points on 6-for-9 shooting.

Rudy Gay scored 25 points, while DeMarcus Cousins added 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Kings, who lost their third straight.

Mavericks 123, 76ers 70: Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 points while playing only 20 minutes and

host Dallas had its largest victory ever while keeping Philadelphia winless.

The 53-point margin for Dallas sur-



FRANK GUNN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Raptors forward Tyreese Hansbrough, rear, tumbles over Chicago Bulls center Joakim Noah during Thursday's game in Toronto. The Bulls won 100-93, snapping the Raptors' five-game winning streak.

Rose injured in Bulls' win

By IAN HARRISON
The Associated Press

TORONTO — Derrick Rose was in Chicago's starting lineup for the second straight game. He finished it on the bench, nursing another leg injury.

Paul Gasol had a season-high 27 points and 11 rebounds, Rose scored 20 points before leaving with a sore left hamstring, and the Bulls beat the Toronto Raptors 100-93 on Thursday night.

"I think it's minor," said Rose, who was injured when he slipped and fell on a drive late in the fourth quarter.

"I just overstepped. I probably stretched out a little bit more with my left leg and I probably got a cramp in it."

Rose, who said he'll treat the injury with ice and muscle stimu-

lation, also said it was too early to say whether he'd be ready for Saturday's home game against Indiana.

Jimmy Butler scored 21 and Mike Dunleavy had 14 as the Bulls won for the sixth time in seven games, and snapped Toronto's five-game winning streak in the matchup of teams with the best records in the Eastern Conference. Both teams are 7-2.

Starting his second straight game after missing four of the previous five with a pair of sprained ankles, Rose was replaced by

Dunleavy with 1:53 left, taking a seat at the end of the bench. "We were up a decent amount of points at that time," Rose said. "I kind of didn't force it, I listened to the staff and sat out."

Kyle Lowry scored 20 and James Johnson had 16 against his former team, but the Raptors lost for the first time in six home games this season.

Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan, who shot 4-for-15 in Tuesday's win over Orlando, went 3-for-17 against Chicago.

Derrick Rose
Chicago Bulls' point guard

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AUTO RACING



AP photos

Ryan Newman, above, has a chance to win the 20-year championship drought for Richard Childress Racing when he goes up against Joey Logano, below left, Denny Hamlin, below center, and Kevin Harvick, below right, in the season finale Sunday at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Not much star power but plenty of intrigue

Biggest names missing from NASCAR's final four

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

MIAMI
There's no Jeff, Jimmie or Junior. Brad Brad missed the cut and Smoke never contended.

NASCAR's biggest stars are all absent from this final field of four racing for the Sprint Cup championship at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Sunday.

The new elimination format introduced by NASCAR this season was designed to emphasize wins over points and create a survival-of-the-fittest finale. Jeff Gordon and Brad Keselowski were eliminated last week. Six-time and defending champion Jimmie Johnson and Dale Earnhardt Jr., NASCAR's most popular driver, were knocked out in the second round. Three-time series champion Tony Stewart didn't even make the 16-driver field.

It was a startling development for NASCAR, particularly since Earnhardt, Gordon, Johnson and Keselowski combined to win 18 of 35 races this season. They will be racing only for pride and a trophy on Sunday while Kevin Harvick, Denny Hamlin, Joey Logano and Ryan Newman will be chasing the Sprint Cup championship.

The quartet lacks star power. But it is a formidable field and all four drivers have their share of tangled histories and compelling journeys that have them within



reach of what will be the first NASCAR title for one of them.

Harvick spent 13 seasons driving for Richard Childress, who hastily called him up to the big leagues to drive Dale Earnhardt's car just five days after the Hall of Famer was killed in the 2001 Daytona 500. He had raw talent to go with his hair-trigger temper.

But Richard Childress Racing could never get him close enough — he finished a career-best third in the standings three times — and he began talking to good friend Stewart about his future in 2012. Stewart told Harvick if he left RCR to drive for Stewart-Haas Racing, he could get Harvick a title.

To make room for Harvick, Stewart had to jettison Newman, the driver he brought with him in 2009 when he became part-owner of Stewart-Haas.

Newman got his pink slip last July and promptly won the Brickyard 400 the next race out. That victory raised his stock and Childress brought him on board.

Of the four, only Hamlin has been in this position before.

He was the points leader headed into the finale under a different format in 2010. But his nerves were the factor he even got in the car and he lost the championship to Johnson. Hamlin hasn't been the same driver since.

Last season, Hamlin feuded for more than a month with Logano, his former Joe Gibbs Racing teammate. Things boiled over at California when they raced each other hard and contact sent Hamlin hard into the wall. He broke his back, missed five races and failed to make the Chase for the first time in his career.

Logano, meanwhile, was on a career resurgence at Team Penske after failing to meet expectations in four seasons with Gibbs. The former 18-year-old phenom dubbed "Sliced Bread" was pushed into Stewart's ride before he was ready when Stewart left for SHR.

Cast aside so Gibbs could add Matt Kenseth last year, the fit with Penske has been spectacular as Logano made the Chase for the first time last year, then held his own with five wins against the big dogs this season.

Around the tracks

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

This week: Ford EcoBoost 400 at Homestead, Fla.

Track: Homestead-Miami Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 400.5 miles, 267 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 9 p.m. Sunday, Central European Time.

Last year: Jimmie Johnson won his sixth season championship, finishing ninth in the finale to beat Matt Kenseth by 19 points. Denny Hamlin won the race.

Last week: Kevin Harvick won at Phoenix to earn an automatic spot in the four-man Sprint Cup championship finale. Hamlin, Joey Logano and Ryan Newman advanced through points.

Online: nascar.com

POINTS STANDINGS

1. Denny Hamlin	5,000
2. Joey Logano	5,000
3. Ryan Newman	5,000
4. Kevin Harvick	5,000
5. Brad Keselowski	2,320
6. Jeff Gordon	2,312
7. Matt Kenseth	2,296
8. Kyle Busch	2,280
9. Carl Edwards	2,278
10. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2,271
11. AJ Allmendinger	2,256
12. Greg Biffle	2,244
13. Jimmie Johnson	2,239
14. Kurt Busch	2,229
15. Casey Kahne	2,202
16. Aric Almirola	2,170
17. Kyle Larson	1,049
18. Jamie McMurray	975
19. Clint Bowyer	943
20. Austin Dillon	939

DRIVER TO WATCH



It's a toss-up as to which driver is going to win the Sprint Cup championship. Four drivers are dead even atop the standings, and whichever one finishes the highest will claim the title.

Denny Hamlin is the only one of the four to have won at Homestead-Miami, and he's done it twice. Joey Logano has one top-10, Ryan Newman has one top-five and four top-10s. Kevin Harvick has five top-fives and 11 top-10s.

But Logano has the most victories this season with five, while Harvick has won four times. Hamlin has one victory, while Newman has yet to win a race this season.

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Ford EcoBoost 300 at Homestead, Fla.

Track: Homestead-Miami Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 300 miles, 200 laps.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m. Sunday, Central European Time.

Last year: Brad Keselowski won the season finale. Austin Dillon finished 12th to take the season title, three points ahead of Sam Hornish Jr.

Last week: Chase Elliott was fifth at Phoenix to become the youngest season champion in NASCAR's three national series. The 18-year-old Elliott gave JR Motorsports — owned by Dale Earnhardt Jr., his sister, Kelley, and Rick Hendrick — its first title. Keselowski won the race.

Fast facts: Kyle Busch has seven victories this year and a record 70 overall in the series. — Keselowski has five victories in 10 starts this season.

Online: nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES

This week: Ford EcoBoost 200 at Homestead, Fla.

Track: Homestead-Miami Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 201 miles, 134 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch won the season finale for his 12th victory of the year. Matt Crafton wrapped by the season championship by starting the race.

Last week: Erik Jones won at Phoenix when a power outage forced NASCAR to end the race with 24 laps left. He finished the season with three victories in 12 starts.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Nov. 23, Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Last week: Mercedes' Nico Rosberg won the Brazilian Grand Prix to cut teammate Lewis Hamilton's points lead to 17 with only the double-points Abu Dhabi race left. Hamilton finished second for Mercedes' record 11th 1-2 finish. Mercedes also matched the team victory record of 15.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: Auto Club Finals at Pomona, Calif.

Track: Auto Club Raceway at Pomona.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, Central European Time.

Last year: Jeg Coughlin won his fifth Pro Stock season title, joining John Force, Shawn Langdon and Matt Smith as champions. Matt Hagan won the Funny Car final, Rickie Jones topped the Pro Stock field, and Eddie Krawiec won in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Last event: Erica Enders-Stevens won in Las Vegas on Nov. 2 to reclaim the Pro Stock points lead. Del Worsham topped the Funny Car field, Spencer Massey won in Top Fuel, and Andrew Higgins in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER RACES

U.S. AUTO RACING CLUB: Sprint Car: Hall of Fame Classic, Friday-Saturday, Canyon Speedway Park, Peoria, Ariz.

Online: usacracing.com

— The Associated Press

NHL



Montreal right wing P.A. Parenteau, left, takes an elbow to the head from Boston left wing Milan Lucic during the first period of Thursday's game in Montreal. The Canadiens won 5-1.

Roundup

Canadiens whip Bruins for fourth straight win

The Associated Press

MONTREAL — If Dale Weise was feeling any pressure in facing the Boston Bruins, it didn't show.

Max Pacioretty had two goals, Weise scored on a penalty shot, and the Montreal Canadiens beat the Bruins 5-1 on Thursday night for their fourth straight win.

Weise, a checking forward, scored his first goal of the season and added an assist.

"I think as a team that was our best outcome," Weise said. "Just a complete game."

"Our goaltender didn't have to stand on his head tonight. He made some great saves, but our offense was there. I just felt we had a complete effort from everybody."

It was Weise's first meeting with the Bruins since Montreal's seven-game win in the playoffs last spring.

Jets 3, Hurricanes 1: Blake Wheeler scored two goals and got an assist, and the Winnipeg Jets beat the Carolina Hurricanes 3-1 on Thursday night.

The Jets, who are in the middle of a five-game road trip, won for the fifth time in seven games and bounced back from a shutout loss in their previous game. They've gone 7-1-2 in their last 10 games.

Avanche 4, Rangers 3 (SO):

Nathan MacKinnon scored the tying goal in the third period and then connected in the shootout as visiting Colorado rallied for a victory over New York.

MacKinnon started the tie-breaker with a goal, and Alex Tanguay added one in the third round. Semjon Varlamov stopped Mats Zuccarello and then Lee Stepaniak on the final attempt as Colorado won for the first time in three games on a four-game trip.

Sharks 2, Lightning 1: Antti Niemi made 32 saves and added an assist as visiting San Jose beat Tampa Bay.

Joe Thornton and Tyler Kennedy scored for the Sharks, who are 2-2 on a seven-game road trip. Niemi improved to 5-0-1 against the Lightning.

Wild 6, Sabres 3: Nino Niederreiter had his first career three-goal game and backup goalie Niklas Backstrom stopped 25 shots as host Minnesota broke out of a scoring slump to beat Buffalo and snap a four-game skid.

The Wild have been missing leading scorer Zach Parise since Nov. 4. He's out with a concussion and Minnesota scored just two goals in three straight losses without him.

Blues 4, Predators 3: Paul Stastny scored on a deflection with 5 minutes, 54 seconds left to

lift host St. Louis over Nashville.

St. Louis has won nine of 10. The Predators had a three-game winning streak snapped.

Senators 4, Oilers 3 (OT): Mike Hoffman scored a pair of goals, including the overtime winner, and visiting Ottawa snapped a three-game skid by beating Edmonton.

Hoffman sent a shot from the slot under the arm of Oilers goalie Ben Scrivens 2:39 into overtime to secure the win for the Senators, who wasted a 3-0 lead.

Flames 5, Coyotes 3: Paul Byron scored twice to break out of a scoring funk, and host Calgary beat Arizona.

David Jones, Mark Giordano and Sean Monahan also scored for Calgary (10-6-2), while Sven Baertschi added two assists, his first points of the season.

Stars 2, Kings 0: Kari Lehtonen posted his first shutout of the season with 27 saves, and visiting Dallas got goals from Ryan Garbutt and Jason Spezza in a victory over Los Angeles.

The highlight of Lehtonen's 28th career shutout was an acrobatic glove save the 11-year veteran made while diving across the crease to rob Jarret Stoll at the edge of the crease at 13:16 of the second period.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP	PK
Montreal	17	12	4	1	25	45	43	4	4
Tampa Bay	17	11	4	2	24	61	46	4	4
Toronto	16	9	5	1	20	53	43	4	4
Ottawa	16	8	4	4	20	45	41	4	4
Boston	16	9	5	1	19	48	48	4	4
Detroit	15	7	3	5	19	40	37	4	4
Florida	13	7	5	1	14	31	24	4	4
Buffalo	18	13	3	2	28	66	46	4	4

Metropolitan Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP	PK
Pittsburgh	14	10	3	1	21	55	32	4	4
N.Y. Islanders	15	10	5	0	20	48	42	4	4
Washington	15	9	7	1	19	49	45	4	4
N.Y. Rangers	16	7	6	3	17	40	37	4	4
Philadelphia	14	7	6	1	17	49	44	4	4
New Jersey	16	7	7	2	16	43	50	4	4
Columbus	15	4	10	1	9	38	55	4	4

Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP	PK
St. Louis	16	4	10	3	23	45	52	4	4
Nashville	16	10	4	2	22	41	34	4	4
Winnipeg	17	9	6	2	22	33	36	4	4
Chicago	16	9	6	1	19	44	30	4	4
Minnesota	15	8	7	0	16	44	35	4	4
Dallas	16	8	7	1	16	46	53	4	4
Colorado	18	8	8	5	15	44	59	4	4

Pacific Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP	PK
Anaheim	17	11	3	3	25	47	37	4	4
Vancouver	16	5	9	3	17	43	57	4	4
Calgary	18	10	6	2	22	55	48	4	4
Los Angeles	17	9	6	2	22	48	48	4	4
San Jose	16	9	7	2	20	53	51	4	4
Edmonton	17	6	9	2	14	43	58	4	4
Arizona	16	9	7	1	13	40	56	4	4

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Wednesday's games

Anaheim 6, Los Angeles 5, SO

Toronto 6, Boston 1

Thursday's games

Colorado 4, N.Y. Rangers 3, SO

Winnipeg 3, Carolina 1

Montreal 5, Boston 1

San Jose 6, Tampa Bay 1

Minnesota 6, Buffalo 3

Ottawa 4, Edmonton 3, OT

Dallas 2, Los Angeles 2

Friday's games

Columbus at Philadelphia

New Jersey at Washington

Pittsburgh at Toronto

Chicago at Detroit

N.Y. Islanders at Florida

Arizona at Vancouver

Saturday's games

Carolina at Boston

Minnesota at Dallas

Anaheim at Los Angeles

Toronto at Buffalo

Philadelphia at Montreal

N.Y. Islanders at Tampa Bay

Colorado at New Jersey

N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh

San Jose at Columbus

Winnipeg at Nashville

Washington at St. Louis

Ottawa at Calgary

Toronto

Sharks 2, Lightning 1

San Jose 0 2 0-2

Tampa Bay 0 2 0-2

Second Period—1. San Jose, Thornton 6:51 (pp.). 2. San Jose, Kennedy 1 (Burns, Niemi), 10:11.

Third Period—3. Tampa Bay, Stamkos 11 (Suuri, Filppula), 2:25.

Shots on Goal—San Jose 17-14-8-39.

Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0-1 (33 shots-23 saves).

Goals—San Jose, Niemi 7-1 (33 shots-23 saves).

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Canadiens 5, Bruins 1

Boston 1 0 0-1

Montreal 5 1 0-2-5

First Period—1. Boston, Hamilton 4 (Eriksson), 16:04 (pp.).

Second Period—2. Montreal, Weise 1 (penalty shot), 2:31; 3. Montreal, Eller 5 (Gulhaugen), 5:05; 4. Montreal, Sekac 3 (Beaulieu, Eller), 14:06 (pp.).

Third Period—5. Montreal, Pacioretty 8 (Shesternikov), 5:05; 6. Montreal, Sekac 3 (Beaulieu, Eller), 14:06 (pp.).

Shots on Goal—Montreal, 11-6-22.

Power-play opportunities—Boston 1 of 3; Montreal 1 of 5.

Goals—Boston, Svedberg 2-3-0 (34 shots-29 saves).

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College GameDay



ETHAN HYMAN, RALEIGH HENS
& OBSERVER/MCT

Player to watch

Deshaun Watson QB|Clemson

The freshman missed the past three games with a broken bone in his throwing hand. Now he's back under center as the Tigers (7-2, 6-1) head to Georgia Tech (8-2, 5-2) on Saturday. The offense averaged nearly three touchdowns fewer under replacement Cole Stoudt, and Watson is eager to reignite the Tigers' offense. Watson accounted for 15 touchdowns in Clemson's first five games while the Tigers have only managed seven offensive TDs in the four games since.

No. 8 Clemson at No. 24 Georgia Tech
6 p.m. Saturday, Central European Time
AFN-Xtra



VASHA HUNT, AL.COM/AP

Alabama quarterback Blake Sims, center, works through drills during a team practice on Wednesday in Tuscaloosa, Ala. The No. 4 Tide is hoping to follow last week's dramatic win over LSU with an upset of No. 1 Mississippi State at home on Saturday to preserve their chance at an SEC title and the playoffs.

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
Conf.	All	W	L
Florida St.	0	9	6
Clemson	6	1	7
Louisville	5	3	7
Boston College	3	6	4
NC State	1	5	7
Syracuse	1	5	7
Wake Forest	0	5	7
Coastal Division			
Conf.	All	W	L
Duke	4	1	8
Georgia Tech	4	1	8
Miami	3	2	6
North Carolina	2	3	4
Pittsburgh	2	4	5
Virginia	2	4	5
Virginia Tech	1	4	5

Game of the week: No. 2 Florida State at Miami. The Hurricanes certainly look like the toughest obstacle between the Seminoles and another unbeaten regular season. A Florida State win would clinch its third straight trip to the ACC title game and make it significantly tougher for Miami to earn its first championship-game berth in its decade in the league.

Inside the numbers: None of the eight most efficient QBs in the conference are seniors and the leader in passing efficiency is true freshman Brad Kaaya of Miami, who has a rating of 157.6.

Players to watch: Pittsburgh RB James Conner, WR Tyler Boyd. Any number of Pitt players could put up huge numbers against a North Carolina defense that is the ACC's worst. Can the Tar Heels slow down Conner, the nation's fourth-leading rusher at 149 yards per game, or Boyd, who averages nearly 89 yards receiving?

Big Ten			
East			
Conf.	All	W	L
Ohio St.	5	0	8
Michigan St.	4	1	7
Maryland	3	2	6
Michigan	3	3	5
Penn St.	1	5	4
Rutgers	1	4	5
Indiana	0	5	6
West			
Conf.	All	W	L
Nebraska	4	1	8
Minnesota	4	1	7
Wisconsin	4	1	7
Iowa	3	2	6
Northwestern	2	4	3
Illinois	1	4	4
Purdue	1	5	3

Game of the week: No. 11 Nebraska (8-1, 4-1) at No. 22 Wisconsin (7-2, 4-1). It's time for a showdown in the West. The Cornhuskers and Badgers are tied for first place with Minnesota, and since the Golden Gophers (7-2, 4-1) have to play No. 8 Ohio State, the Wisconsin-Nebraska winner could easily be alone atop the division by Sunday morning.

Inside the numbers: Nebraska's Ameer Abdullah leads the nation with 187.9 all-purpose yards per game, while Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon leads with 156.8 yards rushing per game. Gordon is second to Abdullah in all-purpose yards per game.

Player to watch: Nebraska RB Ameer Abdullah. He has been dealing with a left knee injury from earlier this month, although he was able to practice this week wearing a brace. The three-time 1,000-yard rusher had extra time to rest because the Cornhuskers had a bye last week.

Big 12			
Conf.	All	W	L
Baylor	5	1	8
TCU	5	1	8
Kansas St.	5	1	7
Texas	4	3	5
West Virginia	4	3	5
Oklahoma	3	3	4
Oklahoma St.	3	3	4
Texas Tech	1	5	3
Kansas	1	5	3
Iowa St.	0	6	2

Game of the week: Texas at Oklahoma State. Since being shut out for the first time in 10 years, Texas (5-5, 4-3 Big 12) has won consecutive games for the first time under coach Charlie Strong. The Cowboys (5-4, 3-3) have their first three-game losing streak since five losses in a row in 2005. Mike Gundy's first season as head coach. But Oklahoma State is trying to become bowl eligible for a school-record ninth year in a row since then.

Inside the numbers: Kansas linebacker Ben Heesey leads the FBS with eight solo tackles per game. He leads the Big 12 with 11.2 tackles per game.

Player to watch: Oklahoma State defensive end Emmanuel Ogbah has six sacks and 10½ tackles for loss the last four games. The sophomore leads the Big 12 with 14½ TFLs and his nine sacks are tied for the league lead.

Pac-12			
North			
Conf.	All	W	L
Oregon	6	1	9
Stanford	3	3	5
California	3	5	5
Washington	2	4	4
Washington St.	2	5	3
Oregon St.	1	5	4
South			
Conf.	All	W	L
Arizona St.	5	1	8
Southern Cal	6	2	7
UCLA	5	2	6
Arizona	4	2	7
Utah	3	3	6
Colorado	0	7	2

Game of the week: No. 7 Arizona State at Oregon State. The Sun Devils are in control of their own destiny in the Pac-12 race and, quite possibly, the College Football Playoff. Beat the Beavers this week, and win out the regular season and they'll play in the Pac-12 championship game Dec. 5 in San Francisco. The winner of that game will be 12-1 and seemingly a lock for one of the four playoff spots.

Inside the numbers: The five conference teams ranked in this week's AP Top 25 (Oregon, Arizona State, Arizona, Utah, and UCLA) have a combined road record of 19-2.

Player to watch: Oregon State QB Sean Mannion. The senior keeps adding to his Pac-12 career-best passing numbers, which is currently 12.873 yards. He's about to take over the top spot on the Pac-12's list for total offense. He's at 12,125 yards, and needs just 90 yards to move past Matt Barkley's career total of 12,214.

SERVICE ACADEMIES



Air Force
vs. Nevada
Last week: Beat
UNLV 48-21
Next game: vs. San Diego State Nov. 21



Army
Western Kentucky
Last week: Beat
Connecticut 35-21
Next game: vs. Fordham, Nov. 22



Navy
vs. Georgia Southern
Last week: Did not play
Next game: vs. South Alabama, Nov. 28

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Saturday

- No. 1 Mississippi State at No. 4 Alabama
- No. 2 Florida State at Miami
- No. 5 TCU at Kansas
- No. 7 Arizona State at Oregon State
- No. 8 Ohio State at Minnesota
- No. 9 Auburn at No. 16 Georgia
- No. 11 Nebraska at No. 22 Wisconsin
- No. 12 Michigan State at Maryland
- No. 15 Notre Dame vs. Northwestern
- No. 17 Arizona vs. Washington
- No. 18 Clemson at No. 24 Georgia Tech
- No. 19 Duke vs. Virginia Tech
- No. 20 LSU at Arkansas
- No. 21 Marshall vs. Rice
- No. 25 Utah at Stanford

SEC			
East			
Conf.	All	W	L
Missouri	4	1	7
Georgia	5	2	7
Florida	4	3	5
Kentucky	2	5	5
South Carolina	2	3	7
Tennessee	1	4	5
Vanderbilt	0	6	3
West			
Conf.	All	W	L
Mississippi St.	5	0	9
Alabama	5	1	8
Mississippi	4	2	8
Auburn	4	2	7
Texas A&M	3	3	7
LSU	3	3	7
Arkansas	0	5	4

Game of the week: No. 1 Mississippi State at No. 4 Alabama. The Bulldogs are the top team in the country according to both the AP and College Football Playoff rankings, but Las Vegas sees it differently, with Alabama a touchdown favorite going into Saturday. Mississippi State's strength is a productive running game led by QB Dak Prescott and running back Josh Robinson. Alabama will counter through the air with quarterback Blake Sims and receiver Amari Cooper.

Inside the numbers: Texas A&M defensive end Miles Garrett has an SEC-leading 11 sacks to start the eight of tight end Jadenove Clowney recorded in 2011.

Player to watch: Georgia RB Todd Gurley. He is expected back from a suspension as the 16th-ranked Bulldogs host No. 9 Auburn. Gurley has rushed for 773 yards and eight touchdowns while averaging 8.2 yards per carry this season.

NFL

Bryant: 'Don't test my loyalty'

Cowboys' receiver still in negotiations over new contract

BY SCHUYLER DIXON
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Dez Bryant smiled through a "no comment," yet the questions kept coming about a new contract with the Dallas Cowboys.

Before long, the star receiver said a deal wasn't about money, which prompted someone to ask what it was about.

"It's all about respect," said Bryant, who was sitting at his locker when reporters showed up in a mostly empty room during the Cowboys' bye week Wednesday. "I am a very loyal person, but just don't test my loyalty."

It's probably too early to call that a warning shot for owner Jerry Jones. But Bryant did recently replace agent Eugene Parker with a combination of Jay Z's Roc Nation management company and agent Tom Condon.

After saying before the season that he didn't want negotiations to continue once the games began, Bryant changed course. He said he was willing for talks to resume as he wraps up a rookie deal worth \$11.8 million over five years.

Meanwhile, Jones faced questions whether he was hesitant to give Bryant an expensive long-term contract because of issues away from the field that plagued his first two years in the league.

None of the above bothered Bryant in London against Jacksonville, when he set a franchise record for yards receiving in a quarter with 158 with two touchdowns in the second period of Dallas' 31-17 win. The Cowboys' next game is at the New York Giants on Nov. 23.

"People are going to say a lot of different things about you and if you get caught up in what's going on outside this building and that takes away from what your preparation is, you're probably not going to be your best," coach Jason Garrett said. "And I think Dez understands that."

Jones has said for months he wants a long-term deal with Bryant, and he says that answers the question about off-the-field concerns.



BRANDON WADE/AP

Dallas wide receiver Dez Bryant, right, grabs a pass over Houston's Jionathan Joseph in overtime of a game on Oct. 5 in Arlington, Texas. Bryant is in the final year of his rookie contract and is in negotiations with the Cowboys for a new, long-term deal.

"He represents the star. We want him to be proud of that," Jones said. "I'm real impressed with how he's evolved over the last several years, or we wouldn't be in serious contract negotiations with him."

Executive vice president Stephen Jones said the Cowboys haven't had discussions with Bryant's new management team. Bryant, who has turned down several offers, has a base salary of \$1.8 million this season.



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Miami guard Mike Pouncey celebrates after the Dolphins scored a touchdown during the second half Thursday against Buffalo.

Scoreboard

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	7	1	0	.778	181	108
Miami	6	4	0	.600	249	180
Buffalo	6	5	0	.500	200	204
N.Y. Jets	2	8	0	.200	174	265
Indianapolis	6	0	0	.667	290	211
Houston	4	5	0	.444	206	197
Tennessee	7	0	0	.222	144	223
Jacksonville	1	9	0	.100	158	282
Cleveland	6	0	0	.667	209	172
Cincinnati	5	3	1	.611	197	211
Pittsburgh	5	4	0	.600	261	239
Baltimore	6	4	0	.600	261	181
Denver	7	0	0	.778	286	202
Kansas City	6	3	0	.667	217	151
San Diego	4	0	0	.556	205	186
Oakland	0	9	0	.000	146	252

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	7	1	0	.778	279	198
Dallas	7	3	0	.700	261	212
N.Y. Giants	3	6	0	.333	195	247
Washington	6	0	0	.333	197	229
New Orleans	4	5	0	.444	251	225
Carolina	3	6	1	.350	198	281
Atlanta	2	6	0	.333	219	238
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	.111	167	272
Detroit	7	1	0	.778	182	142
Green Bay	6	3	0	.667	277	205
Minnesota	4	5	0	.444	168	199
Chicago	4	0	0	.333	194	277
Arizona	8	0	0	.889	223	170
Seattle	6	3	0	.667	240	191
San Francisco	4	0	0	.556	196	202
St. Louis	3	6	0	.333	163	251

Thursday's game

Miami 22, Buffalo 9	Sunday's games
Minnesota at Chicago	Seattle at Kansas City
Cincinnati at New Orleans	Denver at St. Louis
Houston at Cleveland	Atlanta at Carolina
Tampa Bay at Washington	San Francisco at N.Y. Giants
Oakland at San Diego	Philadelphia at Green Bay
Detroit at Arizona	New England at Indianapolis
Open: Baltimore, Dallas, Jacksonville, N.Y. Jets	

Monday's game

Pittsburgh at Tennessee	Thursday, Nov. 20
Kansas City at Oakland	Sunday, Nov. 23
Green Bay at Minnesota	Cincinnati at Houston
Cleveland at Atlanta	Tennessee at Philadelphia
Detroit at New England	Jacksonville at Indianapolis
Arizona at Seattle	St. Louis at San Diego
Washington at San Francisco	Miami at Denver
Dallas at N.Y. Giants	Open: Carolina, Pittsburgh
Monday, Nov. 24	Baltimore at New Orleans

Thursday

Buffalo	3	3	3	0	9
Miami	0	0	0	0	22

First Quarter	Mia—FG Sturgis 38, 6:40.
Buf—FG Carpenter 21, 3:13.	Second Quarter
Buf—FG Carpenter 46, 6:26.	Mia—Gibson 7 pass from Tannehill (Sturgis kick), 2:18.
Mia—Team safety, 1:03.	Fourth Quarter
Mia—Landy 8 pass from Tannehill (Sturgis kick), 11:35.	Mia—FG Sturgis 32, 3:01.
A—7:52.	

First downs	Buf	Mia
Total Net Yards	237	330
Rushes-Yards	19-54	24-125
Passing	205	205
Punt Returns	1-11	0-0
Interceptions	1-0	2-7
Turnovers Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	22-39	26-34
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-10	3-35
Punts	2-37.0	3-41.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	7-70	4-30
Time of Possession	39:30	32:22

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Buffalo, Dixon 10-35, B.Brown 7-57, Watkins 3-32, Woods 2-15, Dixon 2-15, Taylor 2-15, Thomas 4-46, Clay 5-31, M.Wallace 4-38, Hartline 3-55, Williams 2-38, Gibson 2-13, Miller 2-12, St. Louis 2-12, Tannehill 1-12.	
Missed Field Goals—Buffalo, Carpenter 4 (7W).	

Break: Tannehill's rating soars

FROM BACK PAGE

Tannehill's numbers: Sure, the NFL quarterback rating formula is complex and isn't the sort of thing most people can figure out in their head. But when it comes to Tannehill, figuring out what that rating means is simple. When his rating is 91.0 or better in a single game, the Dolphins are now 16-0. When it's less than 91.0, the Dolphins are 5-21. His rating Thursday night: A tidy 114.8, the fifth-best showing of his 42-game career.

Reliable Carpenter: Carpenter has 15 field goals against the Dolphins in the past two seasons, the most anyone has ever made against Miami in that span. He was 7-for-7 last year against his former club, and was 8-for-10 in the two Miami-Buffalo games this season. The only other kicker with so many field goals against the Dolphins in a single season was Roy Gerela, who went 8-for-8 in two Miami meetings for the Houston Oilers in 1969.

Gibson, again: Gibson has four touchdown receptions in his two seasons with the Dolphins — and three of those scores have come against the Bills, including the one that helped put Miami ahead for good on Thursday night. He had two touchdowns games in Miami's 23-21 home loss to the Bills last season. His only other scoring catch with Miami came against New England on Oct. 27, 2013.

Coming up: The Bills have six games left, four of them against playoff hopefuls (Cleveland, Denver, Green Bay and New England, currently a combined 26-10), and two against struggling clubs (the New York Jets and Oakland, currently a combined 2-17). Miami's next two games are at Denver and the Jets. Then the Dolphins finish with Baltimore, New England, Minnesota and the Jets again.

"We just have to keep this momentum going," Dolphins defensive end Jared Odrick said.

MLB

By the numbers

21-3

Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw's record during the regular season. Kershaw was named to his fourth All-Star team and led the majors in games won this season.

1.77

Kershaw's ERA this season, the best in baseball, followed by Seattle's Felix Hernandez (2.14) and the Chicago White Sox's Chris Sale (2.17).

239

Strikeouts recorded by Kershaw in 198 1/3 innings pitched this season. Kershaw led the majors in complete games, WHIP (walks plus hits per inning), and was best among starters in strikeouts per nine innings.

SOURCES: The Associated Press, ESPN.com.

'There are so many people out there who don't think a pitcher should win. ... To be a pitcher and win the MVP, it's pretty awesome.'

Clayton Kershaw
Dodgers' pitcher;
NL MVP, NL Cy Young winner

NL MVP Votes

NEW YORK — Voting for the 2014 National League Most Valuable Player Award, with first-, second- and third-place votes and total points based on a 14-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis:

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
C. Kershaw, Dodgers	18	9	3	355
G. Stanton, Marlins	8	10	12	298
A. McCutchen, Pirates	4	15	21	271
J. Lucroy, Brewers	—	—	—	167
A. Rizzo, Cubs	—	—	—	159
B. Posey, Giants	—	—	—	152
A. Gonzalez, Dodgers	—	—	—	127
A. Wainwright, Cardinals	—	—	—	93
J. Harrison, Pirates	—	—	—	52
H. Pence, Giants	—	—	—	37
J. Cueto, Reds	—	—	—	34
R. Martin, Pirates	—	—	—	22
M. Holliday, Cardinals	—	—	—	21
L. Duria, Mets	—	—	—	17
C. Gomez, Brewers	—	—	—	13
J. Upton, Braves	—	—	—	10
J. Werth, Nationals	—	—	—	9
D. Span, Nationals	—	—	—	8
Y. Puig, Dodgers	—	—	—	8
D. Mesoriano, Reds	—	—	—	5
L. Duria, Mets	—	—	—	5
F. Freeman, Braves	—	—	—	2
J. Mornau, Rockies	—	—	—	2
D. Gordon, Dodgers	—	—	—	1
T. Tulowitzki, Rockies	—	—	—	1



AP PHOTO

The Los Angeles Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw, left, and the Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout were respectively named the NL and AL MVPs on Thursday. Already this year's Cy Young Award winner, Dodgers ace Kershaw became the first NL player to sweep the Most Valuable Player honor and the pitching prize in the same season since Bob Gibson in 1968. The 23-year-old Trout was the youngest unanimous MVP pick in major league history.

Kershaw, Trout win MVPs

Kershaw sweeps NL MVP and Cy Young awards; Trout youngest unanimous MVP in MLB history

By BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For once, Clayton Kershaw was glad to see a long shutout streak end.

Kershaw became the first pitcher to win the National League MVP award since Bob Gibson in 1968, coasting to an easy victory Thursday.

"A little bit of shock, honestly," the Dodgers ace said on a conference call. "I guess I never really anticipated to win that."

A day after unanimously taking the NL Cy Young Award, Kershaw completed a Los Angeles sweep. A little earlier, Angels outfielder Mike Trout was a unanimous pick for the AL MVP.

Trout had been blanked in his bid the past two years, finishing second both times to Detroit slugger Miguel Cabrera. The 23-year-old Trout was the youngest unanimous MVP pick in major league history.

"Just anxious throughout the day," Trout said of the waiting period. "I knew the experience I had the last two years. It helped me with it."

Trout, the MVP of the All-Star game in July, and Kershaw both led their teams to West division titles. In August, they finally faced each in a regular-season game — Trout singled, doubled and struck out looking at Dodger Stadium.

Someday, they hope to meet in October.

Did you know

Trout is the fifth-youngest MVP. Vida Blue (1971), Johnny Bench (1970) and Stan Musial (1943) were 22, and Cal Ripken Jr. (1983) was a younger 23.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

"I think in the future we're going to contend for the World Series, year in and year out," Kershaw said.

To do that, they want to improve in the playoffs. Kershaw went 0-2 with a 7.82 ERA against St. Louis in the Division Series, leaving him 1-5 with a 5.12 ERA in the postseason.

The MVP and Cy Young prizes don't "take the sting away of what happened in the playoffs," Kershaw said.

Trout went 1-for-12 in a three-game sweep by Kansas City in his first playoff hit.

"It's tough to do. You have all these expectations, you want to do so good," he said.

The awards voting was completed by the end of the regular season.

While Detroit pitcher Justin Verlander won the AL MVP in

2011, no one on the NL side had done it for nearly a half-century.

There was plenty of everyday player-vs.-pitcher MVP debate before this announcement. Kershaw had acknowledged "there are so many people out there who don't think a pitcher should win."

But the 26-year-old lefty again dominated the hitters — Kershaw led the majors in wins and ERA while going 21-3 with a 1.77 ERA and throwing a no-hitter. Kershaw got 18 of 30 first-place votes and 355 points in balloting by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. He drew nine second-place votes, one third and a pair of fourths.

"To be a pitcher and win the MVP, it's pretty awesome," he said.

Trout received all 30 AL first-place votes and 420 points. Trout hit .287 and set career highs in home runs (36) and RBIs (111) while leading the major leagues in runs with 115 and extra-base hits with 84. In his third full season, he matched his bests in doubles (39) and triples (nine).

"The power's definitely up," he said. "Getting a little older and a little stronger."

Other numbers also changed. He led the AL with 184 strikeouts and his stolen bases dropped to 16.

Trout was a unanimous pick as the 2012 AL Rookie of the Year and was second in MVP voting to Cabrera in both of his first two full seasons. 81 points back in 2012 and 103 points behind last year.

By the numbers

23

Age of Angels outfielder Mike Trout, the youngest unanimous MVP ever. Trout was a unanimous pick for AL Rookie of the Year in 2012.

.287

Trout's batting average this season. He set career highs in home runs (36) and RBIs (111). He also led the AL in strikeouts with 184.

115

Runs scored by Trout this season. He had 84 extra-base hits, matching his career bests in doubles (39) and triples (9).

1-for-12

Trout's playoff stat line in a three-game sweep by the Kansas City Royals. Kershaw also struggled this postseason, going 0-2 with a 7.82 ERA against St. Louis in the Division Series.

SOURCE: The Associated Press.

'Just anxious throughout the day. I knew the experience I had the last two years. It helped me with it.'

Mike Trout

Angels OF on winning his first AL MVP award after finishing as runner-up the past two seasons.

AL MVP Votes

NEW YORK — Voting for the 2014 American League Most Valuable Player Award, with first-, second- and third-place votes and total points on a 14-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis:

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Mike Trout, Angels	30	—	—	420
Victor Martinez, Tigers	—	16	4	229
M. Brantley, Indians	—	8	6	185
Jose Abreu, White Sox	—	1	6	145
R. Cano, Mariners	—	1	1	124
Gorey Kluber, Indians	—	—	1	122
Nelson Cruz, Orioles	—	—	—	102
J. Donaldson, Athletics	—	—	—	96
Miguel Cabrera, Tigers	—	1	2	82
F. Hernandez, Mariners	—	2	1	48
Corey Kluber, Indians	—	—	—	45
Alex Gordon, Royals	—	—	—	44
Adam Jones, Orioles	—	—	—	34
Adrian Beltre, Rangers	—	—	—	22
Greg Holland, Royals	—	—	—	13
Albert Pujols, Angels	—	—	—	9
Howie Kendrick, Angels	—	—	—	5
Shane Bieber, Royals	—	—	—	3
Yule Seager, Mariners	—	—	—	3

SPORTS

MVPs

Angels' Trout youngest unanimous winner; Dodgers' Kershaw first NL pitcher since 1968

Page 31

NFL

Dolphins break through

Offense finally finds its groove against Buffalo

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Put simply, the Miami Dolphins were due.

They had been on a disastrous stretch against the Buffalo Bills, with one touchdown in a span of 33 possessions overlapping four games — three of which they lost, the fourth one looking like it would have the same outcome.

"I wasn't aware of that statistic," Miami coach Joe Philbin said. "Certainly didn't pass it along to the team."

Then came a breakthrough, and just like that the Dolphins' playoff chances look a whole lot more realistic.

Ryan Tannehill threw touchdown passes on back-to-back drives in a five-minute span during the second half, Miami's defense held Buffalo without a touchdown and the Dolphins beat the Bills 22-9 on Thursday night.

"The team felt, the offense especially, felt confident in what we were doing," Tannehill said. "We were able to move the ball, do exactly what we wanted to do. ... I think we did that in the second half, played more clean."

The Dolphins (6-4) moved into sole possession of second place in the AFC East, 1½ games behind New England — a team Miami beat in Week 1.

Tannehill completed 26 of 34 passes for 240 yards and the two scores to Brandon Gibson and Jarvis Landry. Lamar Miller



ALAN DIAZ/AP

Buffalo quarterback Kyle Orton, bottom, is sacked by Miami defensive end Olivier Vernon during the second half of Thursday's game in Miami Gardens, Fla. The Dolphins won 22-9 to move into sole possession of second place in the AFC East.

rushed for 86 yards on 15 carries for Miami and the Dolphins' defense held Buffalo to 86 yards on 30 plays after halftime.

Dan Carpenter kicked three field goals against his former team, accounting for all of Buffalo's scoring. The Bills (5-5) had

beaten the Dolphins in each of the team's last three meetings, but left the game looking up at 10 other teams in the AFC standings.

"We've got to score," Bills coach Doug Marrone said. "This was a team loss.

There's no doubt about that when you look at all the things that happened out there tonight. ... We lost this game as a team."

Here's what to know after Miami's win over Buffalo:

SEE BREAK ON PAGE 30

Chicago wins battle of top two teams in East

NBA, Page 26

Martinez agrees to 4-year, \$68M deal with Tigers

Sports briefs, Page 25